

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, August 9, 2012

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Kristian's Olympics date with duchess

MOST men can only dream of sitting next to a future queen at the world's most famous sporting event.

But Halesowen-trained Olympic bronze medal-winning gymnast Kristian Thomas revealed what it was like to strike up conversation with the Duchess of Cambridge at London 2012.

He had been asked to keep the seat next to him free for the Royal.

The 23-year-old from Wednesfield, said: "She came to watch theommel final mainly so I was explaining the gymnastics andommel to her. She was quite enthusiastic about it and really enjoyed it."

He added: "I tried to put on the posh voice. She was a normal person to talk to, she made it very easy because I was getting a bit nervous."

Kristian, who trains at the Earls Gymnastics Club, missed out on a vault medal but fellow club members said they were proud of his efforts. More than 50 watched him on television. Meanwhile, council bosses said they are "limited" in ways to support the struggling club, where Kristian has trained since he was five.

Five coaches have already been laid off this year but cabinet Councillor Tracy Wood said: "The council always looks to support the work of sports and community clubs across the borough but with hundreds of groups operating in the area we are limited in what we can do in terms of annual financial support."

Take a long trip by boat

A FIVE-HOUR narrowboat trip will run from a Dudley nature reserve later this month. It will leave Bumble Hole Local Nature Reserve at Windmill End at 10.30am on August 19.

The trip has commentary through the Gorsty Hill Tunnel and there will be a break at Hawne Basin for a look around. Places need to be booked by calling 01384 814100.

TRIBUTES AFTER CRICKETER DIES

Leader defends mosque appeal

THE leader of Dudley Council says Muslim leaders are "exercising their legal right" by appealing against the High Court's decision to throw out plans for a new mosque.

The long-running dispute over land in Hall Street, Dudley, is heading back to the courtroom just weeks after council chiefs in Dudley thought they had reached a conclusion to the seven-year wrangle.

The proposals for a mosque were rejected at a hearing in April, meaning the plot of land, which Dudley Muslim Association has owned since 2005, must now be sold back to the council.

It had argued the land should have been developed by a 2008 deadline.

Council leader David Sparks said: "Members of the Muslim Association are exercising their legal right and we will await the outcome."

"The issue is now back in the courts and we must wait to see what happens."

The council managed to get many of the group's arguments for stopping the buy-back plan thrown out by judges in November.

Cannabis factory raid

FORTY cannabis plants were found when police swooped on a home in Kingswinford. The plants were found growing in an out-building and the loft of the house in Standhills Road after a tip-off from the local community.

A number of sat navs were also discovered during the raid last Friday. The plants have been cleared away after forensic experts took a number of samples and will be destroyed.

Sergeant Chris Collins from the Kingswinford neighbourhood policing team, said: "We are really pleased to have found and stopped this small cannabis factory, as it was a professional set-up." No arrests have been made.

Conor hauls in tuna the same size as him

A HALESOWEN schoolboy looks to have landed himself a world record breaking fish after he caught a giant tuna that was as big as him.

Conor Smith, aged 12, wrestled with the bigeye tuna for almost 30 minutes before reeling in the 187lb whopper off the coast of Madeira last Saturday.

The fish, which at 5ft was the same height as Conor, could be a new world record catch for a child. It was so huge a fork-lift truck was needed to load it onto scales.

Windsor High School pupil Conor is waiting for confirmation that he has broken the record.

He said: "I was shocked when I got this mighty pull on my line. I thought I'd caught a whale."

"It took half-an-hour to reel in. It was a bit of a battle and it took two men to actually lift onto the boat."

"It weighed 187lbs. That's pretty much the weight of my older brother Alex, who is 6ft 5in."

But Conor was not able to enjoy his monster catch because he flew home from holiday the next day.

He is waiting for confirmation he has broken a new world record for the largest fish caught by a child.

Conor said: "We'd been out a couple of times and only caught one fish but I really wanted to go out

again. "So my dad set me up in the chair and said anything that we catch today is Conor's."

"So I was shocked when I got this mighty pull on my line - I thought I'd caught a whale."

He added: "We took it back to shore where they needed a fork lift truck to lift it onto the scales."

"But because we were leaving the next day we weren't able to eat it."

"It still feels good to achieved such a catch - my mates have been congratulating me quite a lot."

Proud

The documents, photographs and witness reports have now been sent off for formal approval by the International Game Fishing Association.

Proud father Frank, a 51-year-old a business development manager, said: "If it had been any bigger it would have probably pulled him in and we would still be looking for him now."

He added: "It was a real battle before he finally reeled him in but I was proud - it really is credit to his perseverance and determination."

Mum Michelle, 40, a child-minder, added: "We are very proud of what he has achieved there - it was one hell of a catch."



Schoolboy Conor Smith, aged 12, with his impressive catch, a 187lb tuna

by Lee Watton

TRIBUTES have been paid to a popular cricketer who collapsed and died after suffering a heart attack while playing for his club.

Father-of-one Richard Beaumont, aged 33, of Halesowen, was playing in Pedmore Cricket Club's match against Astwood Bank when he was taken ill on Saturday.

Paramedics were called to the club grounds in Pedmore Hall Road and battled unsuccessfully to save his life. An air ambulance was dispatched, landing at the club, and took Mr Beaumont to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital. But he could not be saved.

West Midlands Ambulance Service said he had suffered a cardiac arrest.

He leaves behind a wife, Becky, and his four-year-old son Harley, parents Bob and Judy and his brother Ryan.

The family said they were too upset to speak but his father, Bob, wanted everyone to know how proud they were of him and how deeply he would be missed.

Mr Beaumont, a former police officer and care worker, was 33 last month and he and his wife Becky celebrated their first wedding anniversary in May.

His friend of nearly 30 years Paul Pickering, also of Halesowen, said everyone had been devastated by what had happened.

Impact

"I first met Richard when we attended Lapal Primary School and we were friends from then on," he said.

"He was a lovely man and had an impact on everyone he met. Not just long-term friends but those he had only just met as well."

Mr Pickering said the said the number of tributes from individual players and clubs had been "incredible".

Officials at the club, which Mr Beaumont joined last season, also paid tribute.

Spokesman Stuart Bate said: "He was like a rock to other members of the club and would encourage all of



Richard Beaumont, aged 33, with his wife Becky

the players. He was a tough opponent and passionate about the game but he did everything with a smile on his face."

The club has set up a memorial to Mr Beaumont behind St Peter's Church, Pedmore.

Romsley and Hunnington Cricket Club, where Mr Beaumont had played since he was a boy, is planning a series of matches in his honour.

Chairman Bernard Williams said: "The entire club is deeply saddened to hear what has happened. Richard was a lovely man and a brilliant player."

"He had played here since he was a child before moving to Pedmore and his brother and father also had connections to the club."

"Our thoughts go out to his family. Richard will be very sorely missed by everyone. He was a very popular player."

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£2m project could bring 130 jobs

UP TO 130 full-time jobs will be created in a £2 million transformation of a Dudley trading estate, developers have said.

The six-storey office block Pennsett House and a building housing three outdated units on The Pennsett Estate will be demolished.

They will be replaced by three industrial buildings, housing 11 units. They will be aimed at busi-

nesses starting up as bosses say there is a growing demand for smaller units.

The Pennsett Estate is owned and managed by London and Cambridge Properties. A planning application has been submitted to Dudley Council. It is expected the demolition and construction work would take around nine months.

A statement submitted by agent

Jonathan Hickman, of G H Design Ltd, said: "Both these buildings are old and do not meet the demands and expectations of tenants in this day and age."

"The proposals will improve and rejuvenate the site by creating new modern units."

Between 30 and 80 posts will be created by the business units, while a further 50 full-time jobs will be

available during the construction period, the statement said.

Pennsett House, which has a floor area of more than 45,000 sq ft, is currently vacant. In the other building, two of the office units are empty but the cafe is open.

LCP was granted planning permission to demolish the building by heouncil last year. The Pennsett Estate covers 2.3 million sq ft.

Warning of delays for commuter route work

MOTORISTS face three weeks of disruptions when a main commuter route in Halesowen is resurfaced. The work will take place along the westbound stretch of the A456 Manor Way from August 20.

Probe into solicitors could take two years

A PROBE into a chain of solicitors and estate agents that was shut down when the partners were declared bankrupt could take up to two years.

Stables & Company's premises in Halesowen, Stourbridge and Rowley Regis were closed by legal watchdog The Solicitors Regulation Authority.

It said it needed to sift through hundreds of thousands of files before any action could be taken.

Spokesman Lee Shrimpton said: "Investigations of this kind can take anything up to a couple of years."

Clients have been trying to get their wills and documents back after the regulators took over the firm.

Partners David Moore, Nigel Jordan and Jessica Bird were all declared bankrupt on April 30 and their practising certificates were suspended.

They could be banned altogether once the investigation is complete.

Clients who believe they are owed money are being advised to apply for compensation via the SRA.

The regulators said people can have documents and anyone affected should call Marion Vesey on 01623 423073.

It will be the fourth roadworks scheme to be carried out in the Dudley borough since the start of this year's school holidays.

Work is already under way in Stallings Lane Kingswinford, as part of a £1million flood prevention project to install new sewer pipes and an underground flood storage tank.

Old gas and water pipes are being replaced in Pennsett and a 10-week scheme is being carried out in Mason Street, Coseley.

Resurfacing in Manor Way will take place between the motorway roundabout for junction three of the M5 and Grange Island.

It is expected to take around two weeks and will be followed by a week of high friction surfacing which applies an anti-skid treatment to selected stretches of the road. This treatment is weather dependent.

Closures

There will be lane closures and a reduction in the speed limit to 40mph but traffic on the eastbound carriageway should not be affected.

Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for transportation, said: "Following the successful resurfacing of the eastbound carriageway last January, this important work will tackle the westbound stretch of the A456 Manor Way, improving driving conditions for motorists."

"We apologise for any inconvenience and aim to keep disruption to a minimum by working at night during the first week and between 9.30am and 3.30pm on weekdays after that."

Downpours don't dampen Don



The Hall's garden in Netherton is a haven of colourful blooms despite the bad weather

A MIXED bag of unseasonal weather has failed to stop Don Hall's garden growing into a colourful haven brimming full of blooms.

The flowers may have taken a battering from the rain but they are now standing proud in the 73-year-old's little piece of paradise.

His garden in Netherton has been his pride and joy since he was diagnosed with tongue cancer seven years ago, and has continued to keep him in high spirits.

Now he is on the road to recovery, Mr Hall has been spending hours upon hours tending to his flower beds.

The former car components inspector, who worked at BRD, in Aldridge, says working in the fresh air helps to keep him fighting fit.

Despite all Mother Nature has thrown at him, Mr Hall, who used to live in Pelsall, Walsall, says his garden is "the best it has ever been".

He said: "The flowers have done remarkably well considering all of the rain."

"They have suffered at bit but they are looking good now."

Mr Hall, who lives with his wife Barbara, 71, another keen gardener, said the petunias and begonias were doing particularly well.



The couple in the Abingdon Road garden

Auction by store helps out charity

AN AUCTION has raised more than £600 for a Dudley charity as part of a year of support from a Stourbridge store.

Sainsbury's, Amblecote, is raising cash for Insight For Carers, Brierley Hill.

The event at Insight House, Pearson Street, Brierley Hill generated £613.

The charity was founded in 2009 and helps carers and their families in the Dudley borough, offering support, advice and information.

Lorraine Stockton, the charity's project co-ordinator, said: "It was a lovely evening and we were overwhelmed by all the items donated for auction and the money raised on the night."

"It was a fantastic effort by everyone and we really appreciate Sainsbury's raising awareness of the services provided."

Last year £4,073 was raised for the Brierley Hill Project.

At the auction, Sainsbury's Amblecote presented a £50 cheque to its three previous charity partners Parkinsons UK, The Black Country Talking Newspaper & Magazine, and The Brierley Hill Project.

Pub site set to be cleared

A DILAPIDATED pub in Dudley has been boarded up and fenced off as a firm prepares to clear the site.

The Old Park Inn, Middlepark, will be flattened to make way for 10 homes under a scheme approved by Dudley Council despite fears from nearby residents.

The pub has been plagued by vandalism since it closed more than a year ago. Metal has been stripped and much of the furniture has gone.

Developer Guthred won permission to build the homes with 20 parking spaces last year. The firm claims there is a need for good quality modern family housing in the town.

Appeal for help

A GROUP fighting to reopen a Dudley church are appealing for volunteers to help clear the grounds. The St John's Preservation Group is looking for people to help at St John's, Kates Hill. To help contact Deb Brownlee at savestjohnchurch@hotmail.co.uk

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Woman killed in accident is named

AN ELDERLY woman who died after being hit by van in the road outside her home in Sedgley has been named by police.

Phyllis Williams, aged 90, suffered head injuries in the collision in Sandyfields Road.

She was airlifted to Birmingham's QE Hospital after the crash but died hours later.

Neighbours have paid tribute to Mrs Williams.

Barry Hodgetts, 69, said: "She was a well-respected lady who was very fit for her age."

"To me, she was a good friend and neighbour who will be badly missed."

Mr Hodgetts said he believed Mrs Williams was on her way to a bus stop to go to the opticians in Sedgley when the tragedy happened.

He said: "It's a mystery what happened - I don't think anyone saw it."

"I think it's so sad she died right here, outside her home."

After the collision, police spoke to a 44-year-old van driver. No arrests have been made.

Officers are continuing to appeal for witnesses to the incident, which happened between Gospel End Road and Longfellow Road just before 11am.

Anyone who can help should call 101.

Rescue after kitchen fire

A WOMAN was rescued from her Cradley Heath flat after a chip pan was left unattended in the kitchen.

Crews smashed down a door to get into the maisonette-type property after being alerted to the emergency by a neighbour who had seen the smoke.

Firefighters found one woman, believed to be in her 40s, unconscious inside the bedroom. She was woken and led to safety.

Badminton fun

A SUMMER badminton tournament for under-17s will take place in Bewdley on August 16.

The entrance fee for the Summer Bonanza Tournament is £2 per person per event for singles and doubles. Entries close on August 13. Call 01299 871606.

Demand for crossing at busy junction



The junction at Haden Hill Road

PEDESTRIANS are having to dash across a busy junction on a main route through Halesowen before traffic lights change, it has been claimed - sparking fears someone could get run over.

Hundreds of residents are uniting to call for better crossing facilities at the junction of Furnace Hill and Haden Hill Road in Halesowen.

The junction is used by hundreds of pupils at Halesowen College and Earls High during term times and campaigners are concerned there could be a serious accident. More than 400 names have been collected by grandmother-of-two Carol

Poolton. They want the traffic light crossings to be controlled by pedestrians and sensors to allow them more time.

At the moment they have to find an opportunity to cross while the lights are red - but sometimes they can change when someone is halfway across the road.

And when one set of lights is red, traffic then starts turning in from one of the other roads, causing "chaos".

Ward councillor Bob James said: "There just isn't a chance for anyone to cross safely and it's a real problem. You have to take your life in your hands." Mrs Poolton's two granddaughters aged 11 and 13 are pupils

at Earls High and she says they often find it difficult to negotiate the crossing.

The retired care assistant, of Haden Hill Road, said: "One of them is going to get hurt unless something is done. It is an absolute nightmare."

They also want the traffic lights on Dudley Road to change to red allowing traffic travelling along Haden Hill Road towards Halesowen to filter right into Furnace Hill.

Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for transportation, said: "We will look at the petition when it is presented to us and consider the requests from residents."

Petition lodged over plans for homes at ex-fire station

A PETITION signed by dozens of residents has been lodged against plans to demolish Halesowen's former fire station and build 22 homes in its place. The station shut in April - despite a public campaign to save it from closure.

By Heather Large

It followed the merger of Halesowen and Cradley Heath fire stations and the axing of one of the two 24-hour crews.

Fire chiefs are hoping to get planning permission for the housing scheme at the site in Hagley Road before putting it on the market.

But this has proven unpopular with people living nearby.

A petition with more than 40 names has been submitted to Dudley Council which is due to make a decision on the scheme in the coming months.

Narrow

The letter, lodged with the list of signatures, says residents are concerned about a possible increase in traffic from the new development.

There are fears Ashfield Grove, which is a narrow road near the fire station, will become congested.

Stephen Moughtin, of Ashfield Grove, said, in a letter, that the increase in traffic from an additional 22 homes would "cause considerable disruption".

"The safety of pedestrians

will be compromised," he added.

Another resident of Ashfield Grove, who did not want to be named, said she was concerned her house would be overlooked by the new properties.

"It would take away our privacy," she added.

The plans are for a mix of two and three bedroom homes, a report by agent Rob Duncan says.

"It is anticipated that they will be of typical brick and tile construction to reflect the established character of the wider residential area," it adds.

The decision followed in the wake of the fire service being hit with £10 million in government funding cuts between 2011 and 2013.

West Midlands Fire Service also plans to sell off the Cradley Heath station site once a new £3m fire station, serving both Halesowen and Cradley Heath, is built on the site of former municipal buildings in Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath.

Firms back contest

TWO Black Country scrap metal businesses are backing a competition with a top prize of £1,000 to come up with creative ideas for using empty aluminium drinks cans.

Mason Metals, Brierley Hill and Halesowen Metals are giving out leaflets to find out how to enter the ExtravaCanza competition run as part of the Every Can Counts campaign.

Mason Metals commercial manager Neil Woodall said: "We're asking for drawings, photos or videos, which can be uploaded to the www.extravacanza.co.uk website."



Head of retail Janice McPherson and supporter Miss Birmingham, Krisina Jagpal

Charity in appeal to get more clothing

ANYONE having a summer clearout over the holidays is urged to help out a West Midlands charity.

Acorn's Children's Hospice is appealing for unwanted school uniforms and other clothes to help raise funds for poorly youngsters.

Branches in Dudley, Halesowen, Kingswinford, Stourbridge, Wolverhampton, Bilston, Blackheath, Bloxwich, Codsall, Walsall, Perton and Wednesbury, are all looking for stock to cope during the busy summer shopping season. Janice McPherson, Acorn's head of retail, said: "The school break is an ideal time for a wardrobe clear-out."

"Acorns urgently needs these donations, relying on them for a large part of the £8 million income needed to provide constant 24/7 care for children and families."

"People can really help by donating quality goods, including children's clothes and toys, ladies and men's clothes and accessories, household items, books, CDs and DVDs."

NEWS

in brief

CCTV allowed at firm hit by raids

A 19ft POLE with two security cameras will be built at a firm in Brierley Hill following a series of burglaries.

Fortress Security in Leys Road, Brockmoor was granted planning permission by Dudley Council's development control committee.

One resident had sent a letter of objection raising concerns the camera would overlook their back garden. But committee members said they had been reassured that this would not be an issue.

Glass display to focus on No10

A NEW exhibition at Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone will give a sneak peek into Number 10's drinks cabinet.

The 21st Century Engraved Glass show, part of this year's International Festival of Glass, features bold, colourful works by the Guild of Glass Engravers.

The Number Ten Collection was commissioned by The Glass Engraving Trust. The exhibition runs until October 7 and entry is free. Call 01384 812750.

Phone mast set to be replaced

A PHONE mast will be replaced with another 10ft higher after plans were approved.

A 49ft structure will be built at R & P Motors, Coombs Road, Halesowen to be used by T Mobile and Orange.

Dudley Council's development control committee heard the mast was needed to improve coverage in the area. No objections were raised.

Artists invited to join library group

RESIDENTS of Stourport with an enthusiasm for arts are being invited to join a new social group.

Stourport Library Arts Movement has been set up for artists and like-minded people to come together and create art at the library every fourth Monday.

For more information call 01905 822722.

Plans rejected

PLANS to build a new home in the garden of a house in Sedgley have been refused.

The application for the four-bedroom house in Moden Hill was rejected.

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NEWS

THE BEST
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RHODES

MY mother-in-law died recently. She was 90, had lived with us for the past 14 years and was in excellent health until three years ago when she had a couple of falls which seemed to trigger her descent into dementia.

We decided as a family that if we could care for her at home, we would. It was not easy but the NHS provided a team of district nurses and carers who would dress her wounds after falls and take her out for occasional trips.

Dementia is a wretched condition but over the years it introduced us to a range of people from cleaners to doctors who were familiar with it and gave us great support and endless compassion. There is probably nothing so moving in this world as the unexpected kindness of strangers.

□□□□□□□□

AS my mother-in-law's life drew to a close, children were laughing and playing in the garden next door. Life goes on and today, in one of those rich ironies of life, the postman brings letters of consolation for our loss and letters of acceptance to our daughter's wedding.

□□□□□□□□

FASCINATING snippet of conversation overheard in the queue as we waited to record the death at the registry office. A thirty-something couple were heading for the office. She said: "We're an item, so let's get this sorted." He said: "We're not an item." I bet that was an interesting interview.

□□□□□□□□

OUR changing language. An Olympics commentator repeatedly referred to "a standout performance". Outstanding, presumably.

□□□□□□□□

I REFERRED a few days ago to rap music. Several readers upbraid me, one for calling it "music," the others to inquire whether it should be spelt with a C.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Sister uses Facebook to get brother's attacker

Family art will go on display



Artwork by Ray and Catherine Jones which will go on show

PAINTINGS by a devoted Dudley couple are being put on show in their own home by their children.

The artwork by Ray and Catherine Jones, from Brierley Hill, who met when they were students at Birmingham Art College in the 1950s, spans decades. Some of the pieces show the changing landscape of Brierley Hill, where Ray was born and brought up, while others include still life, animals, beach

scenes and life study. Catherine died, aged 78, in May last year, and her husband died at 79, six months later.

Now their daughters, Frances Taylor, aged 52, and Rachel Edwards, 51, and son Chris, aged 47, are mounting the posthumous exhibition of their paintings at the couple's home of nearly 40 years, at 18, Hillcrest Avenue, Brierley Hill on August 18 and 19 from 10am to 6pm.

A MAN has been jailed for a brutal and drunken street attack after the victim's sister decided to turn detective on social networking website Facebook. Greg Beddows had a cheekbone fractured and his right knee broken and was then left lying unconscious in the gutter after being savagely kicked, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Gareth Collins took a run up before driving his right foot into the face of the helpless 24-year-old who could not get out of the way after fracturing his knee during a confrontation between the two.

The 23-year-old attacker, who had dyed blond hair, ran off following the attack, in Stourbridge High Street, the court heard.

But Samantha Beddows, the 21-year-old sister of the injured man, was soon on his trail through internet social networking sites.

Arrested

Miss Beddows did not know his name but spent hours combing through Facebook accounts before finally identifying him.

She then checked his profile and discovered he had posted a comment boasting about the incident which read: "Ha, ha. Sick ain't it?"

Police arrested Collins, of Bridgford Road, Stourbridge, two days later.

He had just lost his job and had drunk six pints before going to a food outlet



Gareth Collins

where Beddows was, said Mr Warren Stanier, prosecuting.

"Banter" between the pair soon turned ugly and Mr Beddows followed Collins in to the street.

Collins took advantage of the situation to run up and kick the stricken victim, the court was told.

Collins, who had a previous conviction for assaulting a taxi driver, pleaded guilty to wounding and was jailed for two years eight months.

Pair given a 10-year dogs ban

A COUPLE who admitted starving their dog and failing to treat its skin disease have been banned from keeping dogs for 10 years.

The pet was discovered by police, starving and suffering from mange.

Simon Ward and Lana Cherrington must also pay £500 each towards veterinary fees after their 12-month-old dog Macca had to be put down.

Mother-of-two Cherrington told officers to take the dog away after their visit to her home in Occupation Street, Dudley.

Cherrington and Ward, of Wheatstree Road, Trivale, appeared at Dudley Magistrates' Court for sentencing last week.

The pair, who are no longer a couple, had already pleaded guilty to inadequately feeding and providing veterinary attention to the dog. Cherrington will also be supervised by probation officers for 12 months.

Ward was ordered to do 140 hours of unpaid work.

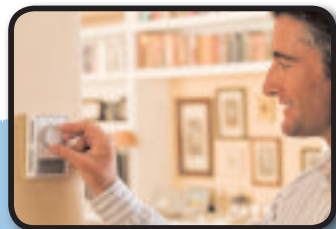
Swim offer in book challenge

FREE swimming tickets are on offer for children taking part in this year's reading challenge in Dudley.

Dudley Council's leisure centres are supporting the challenge by offering all children aged four to 16 who read six books during the school holidays, a free family swim. They will also be entered into a draw with the chance to win prizes including tickets to the Himley Hall and Park Bonfire.

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Hospitals to spend £2.5m on equipment

A TOTAL of £2.5 million has been earmarked for medical equipment to be replaced at Dudley's three hospitals.

The cash has been allocated from the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust's budget for 2012/13.

It will enable older and outdated instruments in all departments to be replaced. Some will be spent on new imaging equipment used to carry out scans of the body.

It follows a £1m investment in the gastroenterology unit where new machines for cleaning medical instruments were installed earlier this year. They help to ensure doctors have a continuous supply of clean equipment for operations and procedures.

Councillor Zafar Islam, cabinet member for health and wellbeing on Dudley Council, has welcomed the latest investment, saying it would benefit patients.

"I'm pleased the money is being spent," he added. Chief executive Paula Clark said: "During the financial year, 2012/13, the Dudley Group has set aside £2.5m within our capital programme for the replacement of medical equipment. This would not include any equipment that is part of the PFI contract and due to be refreshed."

The trust runs Dudley's Russells Hall and Guest and the Corbett in Stourbridge.

Heart screening call after boy dies during rugby game

Daniel puts his shirt on venture

A YOUNG entrepreneur has opened an indoor market stall in Brierley Hill.

Bosses at the Concord Market in the town say they are delighted to welcome 17-year-old Daniel Phillips who is trading in printed T-shirts under the business name DP Vinyls.

The former Wordsley School pupil says trade is going well, partly thanks to initial discounted stall rates offered by market owners Pentax Developments.

Good

He said: "When I left school I wanted to create my own business and after a go on the internet and at car-boot sales I decided to set up here."

"The market gets a good passing trade and I hope to gradually build up by customer base and who knows next."

Mr Phillips, who lives in Brierley Hill, is helped by his mother Vicky at the stall.

Market manager Kim Wyatt, of Pentax Developments Limited, said: "Right now times are tough, so it is good to see someone coming out of school with a initiative."



Daniel Phillips at his stall with his mother Vicky Phillips

A CORONER has called on the Government to consider launching a national heart screening programme for young people following the sudden death of a fit Hagley boy while playing rugby.

Luke Chapman, aged 15, of Meadowcroft, Hagley, died from sudden adult death syndrome following an irregular heartbeat that happened without warning. The 6ft, well built schoolboy was playing rugby at Baxter Business & Enterprise College, Kidderminster, when the tragedy happened on March 20.

Luke, who was playing for his school, Haybridge High, Hagley, died at Birmingham Children's Hospital 80 minutes after collapsing despite efforts to save him at the pitch and in the ambulance.

Birmingham deputy coroner, Miss Sarah Ormond-Walshe, recording a verdict of natural causes, said she would write to the Department of Health asking it to consider for a national heart screening programme.

Heart specialist Dr Mary Sheppard, of London's Brompton Hospital, said she found no abnormalities in Luke's heart. But she said 10 to 12 people aged under 35 died every week - 800 per year - in this country from sudden adult arrhythmia.

"It is believed the heart just stops abruptly and the person literally collapses without warning," she said.

Watching

Dr Sheppard advised Luke's family to undergo checks to discover if there could have been any genetic cause. In Italy a national screening programme had reduced similar deaths by 40 percent, she said.

"It's a massive national issue for children," she added. "It's vital we get a national programme like in Italy."

But she pointed out that this country had few specialists in the subject and more would need to be trained.

Luke's father, Matthew Chapman, with who the youngster lived, told the inquest he was watching the match when his son just collapsed.

"People looking after him started chest



Luke Chapman after a rugby match compression straight away," added Mr Chapman, aged 47.

Afterwards he said members of the family, including Luke's sister and her son, would now have the recommended tests.

After the inquest Luke's mother, Miss Tracey Howell, aged 45, of Solihull, said: "We should be made aware that tests are available which parents could pay for if their children play sport."

Miss Ormond-Walshe said: "The evidence I've heard is that Italy has a national screening programme, which has reduced deaths considerably."

"I will write to the Department of Health asking them to give consideration to a screening programme."

"It's a complex resource issue because there are a limited number of specialist cardiologists in this country."

NEWS in brief

Health fair put on for families

FAMILIES are invited to a health fair at a Dudley school. Gornal Parent and Children's Centre will be hosting the event at Roberts Primary School, in Robert Street, Lower Gornal, on August 14.

The free fair is open to the families of children aged under five including siblings and grandparents and runs from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Activities will include a bouncy castle, face painting and arts and crafts as well as cookery classes and learn to massage taster sessions. There will also be more than 20 advice stands.

Earlier opening for fast food

FAST FOOD giant McDonald's can keep opening its Coseley restaurant at 6am after councillors gave the go-ahead - despite complaints from residents over noise and litter.

Bosses previously won a temporary six-month trial allowing the restaurant, in Birmingham New Road, to open between 6am and 11pm daily.

They had asked for a 5.30am start but proposals were scaled back last November. Members said no complaints had been made during the trial.

Plan rejected

PLANS to build a home in the garden of a house in Sedgley have been refused. The application was for the four-bedroom house in Moden Hill.

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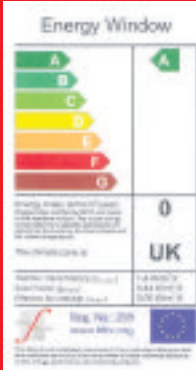
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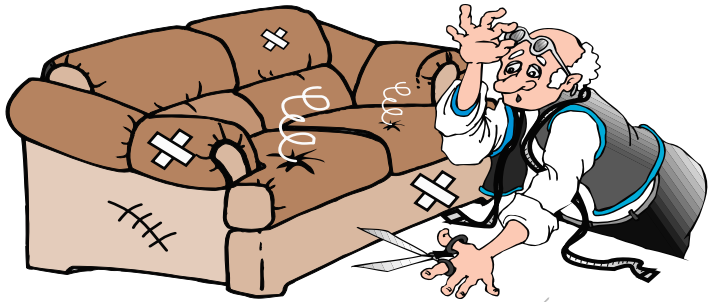
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NEWS

Donations to borough's hospitals are up by 22pc

DONATIONS to Dudley's three hospitals have shot up by around 22 per cent in 12 months, new figures reveal.

The Dudley Group NHS Charity received a total of £586,000 in 2011/12 compared with £480,000 in the previous year.

Money given to the charity goes towards making patients more comfortable as well as supporting staff by funding training. The total donated during the past financial year includes £262,243 from legacies. Around £13,300 has also been generated by fundraising events.

The cash has been spent on items such as foldaway beds for the children's ward at Russell's Hall Hospital which allow parents to stay overnight.

Money has also been used to fund patient "comfort packs" containing essentials such as shampoo and a comb or brush to help make stays in hospital more comfortable.

Paula Clark, chief executive of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "The Dudley Group greatly appreciates every donation it receives, especially in these difficult economic times. The money continues to support a wide range of health-related activities which benefit both patients and staff."

The charity recently purchased a mammography/biopsy chair which helps to keep patients more comfortable during treatment. It cost £4,500 and some of the money was raised by firefighters Martin Davies, from Dudley Green Watch, and Richard Miles, from Halesowen Blue Watch who ran the gruelling Marathon des Sables.

Activities at town centre

DUDLEY Leisure Centre is hosting events aimed at youngsters aged from eight to 14 during the summer holidays.

The sessions run every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday until August 24.

Activities will include football, dancing, cycling, t-shirt design and computer games. Admission is £10 a day. Call 01384 812800.

Church offering meals



Chris Walker, aged 66, from Cradley, and Pat Southall, 68, from Stourbridge, prepare to serve up a treat with fellow volunteers at the church

TASTY dishes are on the menu for youngsters in Cradley after two churches teamed up to serve meals during the summer holidays.

Volunteers from St Peter's and Providence Methodist churches are providing free food for schoolchildren throughout August.

More than 100 children from

three Cradley schools were given special vouchers inviting them to six events at Providence Methodist Church, Windmill Hill.

Events are taking place on August 9, 15, 22 and 29 between 12.30pm and 1.30pm.

Cradley Makes Lunch is linked to wider campaign The Big Meal Deal.

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Confusion over dialect

THE LETTER by Alan T Harrison on July 28 made some very good points about how the Black Country dialect can be confused with grammar.

Mr Harrison was right in saying "grammar is a description of the way language works" and he also made an excellent point about how the dialect has its own grammar in the example given.

I have sadly heard so many people - some of them Black Country people - who have spoken critically of the dialect, saying that it is "not English" and that dialect features such as "we am" are "not good English".

An even greater annoyance of mine is when many people, some Black Country

people included, refer to the dialect as "slang".

It is obviously not slang, which is something different. When I was a child in the late 80s and early 90s many of my teachers corrected kids at my primary school for using dialect words.

I would worry about using the words in school for fear and embarrassment of being corrected in front of the whole class. I always thought my teachers had quite a snobbish attitude towards the dialect.

Attitudes towards the dialect seem slightly more relaxed nowadays, which is something that pleases me.

MATT MILLS, Wolverhampton

Madonna show was awesome

Re: the review of the Madonna concert at the NIA by Elizabeth Joyce.

Whilst I agree Madonna did keep her loyal fans waiting it was worth every second, the show she provided was an amazing cacophony of song, dance, lights and perfected show-woman-ship, she was awesome.

I can assure you, (from personal knowledge), that crowd did not consist of only "over-40 somethings" and due to the younger fans amongst the crowds dancing and singing the night away to keep warm there was not a woolly jumper in sight.

In relation to some "classics needed to get the crowds out of there seats", there was not a single butt on a seat, as commented on by the queen of pop herself.

NICOLA CLARKE
Cressett Avenue
Brockmoor
Brierley Hill

Motorcyclists need to be seen

WHY is it that many motorcyclists do not want to be seen? Their bikes, clothes and helmets are often black and few put their lights on in the daytime.

No wonder so many (as reported in your paper on a regular basis) get knocked off their bikes by other vehicles and sustain serious and fatal injuries. Please, motorcyclists, do all you can to stand out from the background and BE SEEN.

CHRIS FANTOM
Princess Crescent
Halesowen

Ode to the young lass who serves

Sixty years have come to pass,

Since the throne was taken by a young lass.

The Diamond Jubilee is here this year,

For Queen Elizabeth we all hold dear,

With her husband by her side,

She served the Empire, no easy ride.

In sickness and health, Sadness and pleasure,

Her duties so many, Hard to measure.

She has remained steadfast in her role,

Can anyone fault her? Nay not a soul.

So carry on Elizabeth, God will help you through,

To continue to reign over the empire as you do.

So let us all raise a glass, To our Queen whose

reigned since a lass.

MRS JOAN HILL
Crescent Road
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LETTERS

to the Editor

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Squandering cash on pointless Olympics

REGARDLESS of what the gigantic waste of money, otherwise known as the London Olympics, costs me as a taxpayer (£27 million for the opening ceremony alone), it's certainly saving me money elsewhere. The BBC has wall-to-wall coverage. All the programmes I would normally watch on the BBC have been taken off and so, because I can rarely find anything worth watching on any of the other 'garbage' channels, my TV will remain largely switched off for at least the next three weeks.

One programme I did watch recently, was Helicopter Heroes. It's about the real heroes of the RAF search and rescue teams who save lives on a daily basis using 30 year old machines that are only kept going thanks to the skills of very dedicated mechanics. What they wouldn't be able to buy with £27m! The idiots who rule us would rather squander our money providing for so called 'sporting heroes' competing in a giant waste of money, pointless carnival that less than a quarter of the population have any interest in, than for modern equipment for the real heroes who save lives.

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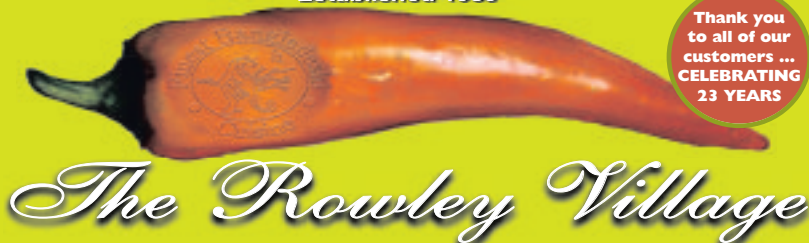
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NEWS

Traffic chaos claims spur plea for quarry cameras

RESIDENTS are calling for cameras to be installed near a Black Country quarry's entrance amid claims that lorries are causing traffic chaos.

People living near the Ketley Quarry in Kingswinford want council chiefs to measure the impact the site is having on the area. Operator WCL was recently given permission for vehicles to arrive at 7.30am instead of 8am. But residents say trucks waiting to enter the site are causing tailbacks.

It comes after bosses at the firm were warned by council chiefs earlier this month when lorries were caught entering the site before 7.30am.

Ward Councillor Patrick Harley says cameras would prove further action needs to be taken.

Site owners Hinton, Perry and Davenhill are drawing up plans to open at 7am instead, which they say would ease traffic.

Councillor Harley said: "I only hope that Dudley Council and its planning department and all its engineers who claimed the new entrance and opening times would have no impact on the Dudley Road are now hanging their heads in shame. If not then they should be."

Hinton, Perry and Davenhill managing director Alex Patrick-Smith said the operators had always provided CCTV when requested.

He added: "The gate is opened at 7.30am, which is the permitted time. Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for transportation, said: "The council is aware of the concerns of local people."

Mixed reaction to plans

PLANS to replace a closed-down pub in Dudley with five apartments have attracted a mixed response from the local community. A developer wants to convert the Dry Dock pub, Windmill End, Netherton.

In letters to Dudley Council, some neighbours said too many flats are planned, but others say they will end drug dealing there.

Surprise celebration



Resident Annie Oakley, 83, with manager Stephanie Knott and owners Mike and Bernadette Ramdoo at the Park Lane Care Home, Sedgley

THE OWNERS of a Sedgley residential home have been treated to a surprise party for its 25th anniversary.

Ragavendrawo and Bernadette Ramdoo were joined by around 50 friends and former staff for the event at Park Lane House, Tipton Road, Sedgley. They had been

invited round by manager Stephanie Knott, aged 41, and were shocked to see the surprise gathering. The couple set the home up in July 1987 after moving from Wembley with their three young children.

Mr Ramdoo, says he feels "proud" the 30-bed home has lasted so long.

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NEWS

Death-crash lorry driver spared from going to jail

Open audition for show



Inviting people to the audition for their show Believe, is company director Jodie Richards of Sedgley, with members, at the Mill Theatre, Sedgley

A NEW show in the Black Country will be holding an audition to find performers for the production.

Pink Productions is holding open auditions in September for Believe which will be staged at the Mill Theatre in Sedgley.

The show will be packed with the sounds of the best musicals of the West End and Broadway including

Hairspray and Happy Feet. The auditions are open to five to 45-year-olds and will take place on September 2 at Holy Trinity Church in Farrington Road, Etingshall Park. Under 12s are invited to attend between 1pm and 2pm and over 12s between 2:30pm and 4pm.

People attending the auditions should bring a £2 fee and an SAE.

A LORRY driver from Sedgley who crashed into the back of a car queueing at traffic lights on a motorway slip road, leading to a man's death days later, has been spared jail.

But Judge Amjad Nawaz told him he will live with the consequences for life.

Mark Roberts, aged 46, was found dead at home in Willenhall after complaining of neck pains and a headache in the days after Matthew Broadley's Renault Tipper lorry hit his Peugeot 206. The father of two had been discharged from hospital.

His injuries were not thought to be serious following the crash on the M6 slip road at junction 10 in Walsall in October.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that 31-year-old Broadley, who was a driver for S&B Waste Management & Recycling, Purbrook Road, Wolverhampton, saw three cars ahead of him but expected them to move off as the traffic lights had turned green.

However, the front car stalled and Broadley's "attention was diverted momentarily," said Mr Nigel Wilkins, prosecuting.

The lorry caused "extensive damage" to the Peugeot and Mr Roberts, who was conscious, was cut free by firefighters as a precaution. He suffered a haemorrhage and was discovered dead at home by his wife on October 21, the court heard.

Miss Michelle Brown, defending, said Broadley had struggled to come to terms with what happened. Broadley of The Vista, admitted causing death by careless driving. He was given a 26-week prison sentence, suspended for 18 months, and was ordered to do 200 hours of unpaid work. He was also banned from driving for 18 months.

Hall tours selling well

TICKETS for special tours that take visitors behind the scenes at Himley Hall are selling fast. The tours are on August 9, 15 and 23 and September 13 and 19. Tours cost £6.35 and start between 7.20pm and 7.40pm. Places must be booked on 01384 817817.

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MEMORY LANE



The workshop at J and J Northwood Decorating Works, Barnett Street, in 1925



Glass cutting at Stevens and Williams, Brierley Hill



Workers at Tudor Crystal, in Junction Road, Audnam, pose near the factory

Reliving the days when glassmaking made the area a cut above the rest

It was once the glassmaking capital of the world at the cutting of edge of developments in the industry and its pieces prized worldwide.

Thomas Webb and Sons, Richardsons and Stuart Crystal, in Ambleside and Wordsley, are well-known to this day and the glass they created is highly collectable.

While now only the Red House Glass Cone, in Wordsley High Street, remains as a testament to the town's heritage, compared to a skyline once dominated by brick-built cones, the eyes of the glassmaking world are once again going to be focused on the town for the International Festival of Glass.

The event will be held at venues in the town from August 24 to 27. And this year will be extra special as it will celebrate 400 years of glassmaking in the town.

To commemorate the occasion, Broadfield House Glass Museum, Kingswinford, has shared some of its picture archives of the town's glassmaking heritage.

The 400-year anniversary date is taken from when Paul Tyack baptised his first son at St Mary's Church, Kingswinford, in 1612.

Mr Tyack was one of the town's first glassmakers. Originally from the Lorraine region of France he settled in the area due to the abundance of natural resources. Experts say it is likely glass was being made in the

By Lee Watton

town before that date but that is the first firm record they have of the family being in the Stourbridge area.

Items made by these early glassmakers would have included bottles and window glass. The glass would have had a green tinge due to the materials used.

The creation of lead crystal glass in the 1670s by London glassmaker George Ravenscroft would revolutionise the industry by creating a clearer version of the material. But the next great leap forward in the industry would be firmly based in the Black Country. In the 1790s two glasscutters, one from Dudley the other from Stourbridge, pioneered the steam powered cutting lathe.

Rediscovered

Previously the equipment had been operated by hand but the new machinery could cut deeper and with greater precision - creating intricate cut glass as it is known today. Another of the town's best-known glassmaker in the town was Thomas Webb.

Webb was involved in a number of factories in the town but mainly the Dennis Glassworks, off Collis Street, in Ambleside. In 1878, the firm won the Grand Prix for glass as the Paris International Exhibition.

Factories were also set up in Brierley Hill, including Stevens and Williams. Other factories of note were Tudor Crystal, in Junction Road, Audnam, and the Webb

Corbett factory, off Wollaston Road. In 1875, artist John Northwood rediscovered the ancient Roman art of cameo glass when he created the first exact replica of the Portland Vase. The original, dating from the Roman period, had been shattered at the British Museum in 1845.

He and his brother Joseph had previously set up J and J Northwood Decorating Works, in Barnett Street, Wordsley, which acid etched glass.

Stourbridge retained its grip on glassmaking innovation creating art deco styles in the 1930s but by the 1970s the industry had started to decline with many factories closing the 90s and 2000s.

The Webb Corbett site ran until 2000 when it was purchased from owners Royal Doulton by the Ruskin Mill Educational Trust. It is now the Ruskin Glass Centre. Tudor Crystal which had been based in Junction Road, Audnam, was purchased by Plowden and Thompson and continues at the New Dial Glassworks, also Audnam, to this day.

Glass expert Charles Hajdamach said the town's glassmaking heritage continued with the rise in studio glass, where artists work with the glass themselves as still a fixture in the town.

"Work being created at places such as the Ruskin Glass Centre, in Ambleside, is just as exciting as the developments in the past would have been," he said. "That pioneering spirit still exists to this day."



A drawing of the Dennis Glassworks, off Collis Street



Webb Corbett factory, circa 1960. The Ruskin Glass Centre is now on the site

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NEWS

Nature reserve organises holiday wildlife sessions

Pub steps out for charity



Getting ready for the walk are Alliyah Elaine, nine, and Elaine Gordon with the rest of the fundraisers outside the Prince of Wales pub

MORE than 30 fundraisers set off on a charity walk organised by a pub landlady in aid of a cause close to her heart.

The group set off from the Prince of Wales pub in Cradley Heath and walked to Bewdley and back.

Money raised will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support – a charity chosen by landlady Elaine Gordon, aged 55, as her father Kenneth Johnson died from cancer in 1972 aged 39.

Since then she has raised thousands of pounds for cancer charities.

In her latest fundraising event

people set off from the pub in Wrights Lane at 1pm and arrived in Bewdley at 4.30pm. They then walked back to Cradley Heath, arriving at around 9pm.

Mrs Gordon said: "It was brilliant. It went very well and everybody enjoyed themselves. We haven't counted the money yet but we are hoping to raise more than £300."

The walk followed previous fundraisers organised by Mrs Gordon, including a dance competition, evening raffles and pub fun days.

POND-DIPPING, crafts and wildlife sessions are among the events taking place in Halesowen this month.

Activities have been organised at The Leasowes to keep youngsters entertained throughout the six week summer holiday.

Booking is essential for all events on 01384 814642. The youngsters are asked to meet at the warden base, off Mucklow Hill, before all activities.

The first activity last week involved youngsters joining a warden to join in a search for some of the fascinating insects which have habitats at the nature reserve.

Feeders

A pond dipping session took place yesterday where visitors were able to discover the species which live in ponds at the park.

A natural art activity will take part from 10am to noon on August 15.

Visitors will be able to create their own arts and crafts from natural materials taken from around the site.

People will be able to make their own bird feeders on August 22 from 10am to noon which they can then take home at the end of the session.

The final event will be held on August 29 with a kite-making session.

Drink driver who went aid of brother banned

A MAN was caught drink driving after going to help his brother who had been robbed nearby. Francesco Rizzo, aged 48, was twice the legal limit when stopped as he arrived home in Greenhill Road, Halesowen, on July 14.

He admitted drink driving when he appeared at Dudley Magistrates' Court last week and was disqualified from driving for 17 months and fined £265.

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NEWS

Glass cone sapling is removed by workmen

A SMALL tree growing out of the side of the historic Red House Glass Cone, Wordsley, has been removed following concerns it could damage the building. Specialist contractors were called in to carry out the work.

By Lee Watton

The clump of branches was sprouting from brickwork, leading to fears it could damage the 18th century building.

Workers had to painstakingly remove the sapling to ensure their own efforts did not pose a risk to the cone.

Another, smaller sapling that had started to emerge from brickwork on a lower section of the building closer to the entrance has also been removed.

Dudley Council said the work had been carried out last Wednesday just over a week after calls were made to deal with the problem.

Wordsley councillor John

Jones said he was pleased the work had been carried out.

"There was a real concern the tree could have caused damage to the cone if it had remained in place for a longer period of time," he said.

"This is one of the area's most historically important buildings and later this month will be one of the main sites for the International Festival of Glass.

"The sapling simply could not have been allowed to remain in place.

Peppa Pig to be at fun day

YOUNGSTERS will have the chance to meet Peppa Pig during a family fun day at Sedgley's Beacon Centre for the Blind on August 16. Other visitors can tour the facilities or browse the site's shop. For times, call 01902 880111 or email kvickers@beacon4blind.co.uk

Sea cadets pull in cash the hard way



Lauren Holloway, and fellow sea cadets, get set for the sponsored barge pull

SEA cadets in Dudley face a test of strength when they pull a canal barge for 20 miles through the Black Country on Saturday to raise cash. The narrowboat will be dragged along the waterways network from Dudley Canal Trust in Birmingham New Road to Brindley Place in Birmingham - and back again. The cadets will work in shifts throughout the day and expect to take 12 hours. They are looking for residents and firms to sponsor them at <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/bargepull>

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Drink driver handed ban

A MAN caught driving on a pedestrianised section of Stourbridge High Street while over the legal alcohol limit has been banned from the road for a year.

Paul Southall had a reading of 108 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood. The legal limit is 80 milligrams, Dudley Magistrates heard. Southall, 48, of Cooper Avenue, Brierley Hill, pleaded guilty to drink driving on June 9. He was fined £100 fine and ordered to pay £85 costs.

Illegal migrant jailed for fraud

AN ILLEGAL immigrant has been jailed for 16 weeks after using false documents, some created on his home computer, to get loans from two Dudley shops.

Kola Akingbade entered The Money Shop, in Stourbridge, on July 23 and presented a false bank card and payslip to successfully secure a loan of £300, Dudley Magistrates heard. He tried to get another loan

from the Halesowen branch on July 26.

The court heard Akingbade used a different card and payslip but was caught out by staff and later arrested.

The court heard Akingbade, of Gillott Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, was in the country illegally and was likely to be deported.

The 40-year-old pleaded guilty to two charges of fraud by representation and a further count of obstructing a police officer in the execution

of his duties. District Judge Michael Wheeler said given the circumstances a custodial sentence was the only option.

He was told Akingbade had originally been deported from the UK in 2006 following similar court proceedings but has returned illegally.

Mr Mark Cooper, prosecuting, said: "He told police he had found the bank cards and had created the payslips on his computer using the names on the cards."

"He originally gave false details to

police and his real identity was only revealed following inquiries."

Mrs Amanda Tomkins, defending, said: "My client is realistic about what will now happen and knows he is going to custody."

When he returned to the country he was working. He lost this employment and was struggling financially which is why he committed these acts."

The judge said: "I take into account your guilty pleas but this is the only credit I can give you."

Local brews to get a world showcase

SOME of the region's favourite tipples are being showcased at this year's Great British Beer Festival in London. Holdens Brewery will be helping to fly the flag for Dudley with their Black Country Mild. The family-run firm, which dates back more than 100 years, will be one of the brewers on the main bars in the event at the Olympia.

The brew will be joined by the popular Banks's Mild and Bank's Sunbeam which is produced at Wolverhampton's Park Brewery. The site is owned by Marston's. The brewer's EPA, Pedigree and Single Hop drinks will also be available. While Backyard Brewhouse, of Walsall, will be serving up glasses of its Blonde ale. It is among a host of regional brewers to be represented at the event which runs until August 11. Organiser the Campaign for Real Ale is aiming to showcase Britain's historic brewing industry to the world.

Youth club romance stood the test of time



John Roberts, aged 87, with his wife Lorna, 86, celebrating their Blue Sapphire Wedding Anniversary and inset the happy couple on their wedding day

A COUPLE who met as teenagers at a youth club have celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

John and Lorna Roberts, of Wall Heath, spent many hours together as members of St Mary's Church Youth Club, Erdington, and shared a love of cycling. Their relationship grew from there and they were married at the church on July 26 1947.

They are parents to Steven, 60, who now lives in New Zealand, 59-year-old Clive and Jean, aged 49. Their eldest son Geoffrey, who would have been 62, was tragically killed in a parachuting accident 25 years ago.

The couple also have seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. They hope to visit Steven in New Zealand in January and say they are looking forward to the trip. Mr Roberts worked as a teacher and spent 19 years at Highgate Primary School, Dudley.

His wife worked as a secretary at Maidensbridge Primary School, in Wall Heath, for many years.

The couple hit the headlines when they took up badminton in their 60s and have only recently given up playing regularly at Stourbridge's Crystal Leisure Centre.

Burner work to start

WORK will start on a controversial £120 million waste incinerator in a village near Kidderminster within weeks – as campaigners decide whether to continue to battle the development.

The EnviRecover plant in Hartlebury near Kidderminster would be open by late 2013 and site bosses say they hope to start building by the end of the year.

The decision to approve the plans was announced by Communities and Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles after a three-year fight from local residents.

They are currently taking legal advice on what to do next. The Mercia Waste Management plant will take up to 200,000 tons of waste from Worcestershire and Herefordshire each year.



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NEWS

NEWS
in brief**Pupil to get help
with study costs**

PUPILS at a Tipton school are celebrating after being awarded a £500 cash boost.

Employees from Pertemps People Development Group nominated RSA Academy in Bilston Road for support after hearing about the school's grants scheme encouraging pupils to go to university.

Principal Michael Geron said: "The fund can help with buying books and food or helping with travel costs. This generous donation will help one of our students."

**Helpers can join
canal clean-up**

VOLUNTEERS are being called on to take part in a canal cleaning day in Tipton. Helpers will meet outside Neptune Health Park on Sedgley Road West on September 1 at 10am.

They will be cleaning the canals and tow paths from Tipton Station to Factory Locks and from Malthouse Stables to Coronation Gardens. All are invited. For details call 0798 5900106.

On stage offer

CHILDREN can join week-long theatre summer schools in Birmingham. Theatre company Stage2 will hold them at Millennium Point from August 27 to 31. It costs £75 per child for the week. See www.stage2.org or email info@stage2.org

Special showing organised for tragic couple's paintings



Chris Jones with work by his mother Catherine

PAINTINGS by a devoted and talented Black Country couple are being put on public show in their own home by their children – the year after they both died suddenly.

The artwork by Ray and Catherine Jones, from Brierley Hill, who met when they were students at Birmingham Art College in the 1950s, spans decades.

Some of the pieces show the changing landscape of Brierley Hill, where Ray was born and brought up, while others include still life, animals, beach scenes and life study.

Catherine died from a brain haemorrhage, aged 78, in May last year, and her husband died after collapsing with pneumonia, aged 79, six months later.

Celebrate

Now their daughters, Frances Taylor, aged 52, and Rachel Edwards, 51, and son Chris, aged 47, are mounting the posthumous exhibition of their paintings at the couple's home of nearly 40 years, at 18, Hillcrest Avenue, Brierley Hill.

The open house, on August 18 and 19 from 10am to 6pm, will celebrate their life and work.

Frances said: "It's been quite cathartic for us to sort out the pieces to go in the exhibition – and we found some stuff we'd never seen before, including sketches of me as a baby."

"Many show aspects of life and the history and changing face of Brierley Hill."

The couple were married in the late 1950s and worked as art teachers in various schools, locally and in the East Midlands. In later life both also worked at Dudley Zoo for a time, designing booklets for children and signs for animal enclosures. Some of the couple's work has already been purchased by Brierley Hill Library.



Artwork by Ray Jones which will be exhibited for all to see



Chris's late parents, Ray and Catherine Jones who both died last year

Council's pledge on new lights

TRAFFIC lights that change depending on the speed of drivers will not be introduced elsewhere in Sandwell for the time being.

Sandwell Council trialled the lights last year. They were successful and bosses said they could be rolled out across the borough.

But now, Councillor Ian Jones, for neighbourhoods, said: "The changes to the lighting sequence at the pedestrian crossing in Highgate Street in Old Hill have been made to help reduce the problem with speeding."

"We don't have any plans to do this to other crossings, but it's a road safety tool that can be used where appropriate."

The £400 crossing trialled is the first of its kind in the Midlands. The lights stay on red unless the oncoming car is going at or below the 30mph limit.

It is a normal crossing during the day and adopts the traffic-calming setting only in the evening. Police have backed the scheme.

But some people have criticised the concept, saying it confuses drivers and could cause crashes.

Rider injured

A MOTORCYCLIST was injured after his scooter hit a parked van in Halesowen, police said. The man, who is in his 30s, suffered leg and collarbone injuries in the accident in Haden Hill Road at 11.40pm on Friday. The man was taken to hospital.

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Dream time for young

TWO youngsters had their dreams come true after battling back from a hospital stay thanks to a children's charity.

Abigail Dunn and Carrie-Louise Johnson both received treatment at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital when they were visited by Wishing Well volunteers.

Straits Primary School pupil Abigail, aged 11, who lives in Lower Gornal got to spend a day at the Build a Bear shop at Merry Hill.

Meanwhile, Carrie-Louise Johnson, 16, had her wish granted to become a barrister for the day at St Philips Chambers in Birmingham.

Delays hit cafe plans

HOPES to open a continental-style cafe bar and restaurant in a historic building to coincide with the opening of a new Dudley College campus have been dashed by delays.

It was hoped the old Carver's Cafe in Stone Street Square, which has stood empty for nearly a decade, would be finished by September to attract new students.

Council bosses wanted the opening to coincide with an £18 million vocational centre at Dudley College in nearby Tower Street.

But they revealed delays in getting work started mean it will now be com-

pleted in the new year. The college building, which will be known as Dudley Evolve, forms part of a £30m university-style campus scheme by the college to create a new learning quarter in the town centre.

Developers say the new cafe bar could be a draw for young people.

It will feature two large arched doorways harking back to when it was a fire station more than 100 years ago.

Piazza

It will also have a new entrance on to the square surrounded by glass panels, along with a piazza for tables and chairs.

The long-standing project had been central to the council's plans to regenerate the town but was shelved last year due to a lack of cash.

But now an unnamed firm has taken over the premises. Regeneration councillor Shaikat Ali said: "There has been a delay but things are moving forward now."

"Architects have now been appointed and though we won't be able to get it ready for September we are hoping it will be early in the new year. It will be a really great development for the town when it is finished."

The cafe was originally conceived as the first stage of a redevelopment of the town centre but the plans fell through due to problems with funding.

But since then £4.5m European funding has been secured towards a £10m project to link Dudley Zoo to the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust.

Council among best at tax collection efficiency

DUDLEY and Sandwell councils are among the best in the country at raking in tax due from local ratepayers.

Both Sandwell and Dudley collected 98.2 per cent of the council taxes levied on borough taxpayers last year.

Wolverhampton was close behind, with 96 per cent of council tax owed collected during 2011-12.

In Walsall more than 97 per cent of the amount due from borough taxpayers was collected, with more money recovered since as the council continues to chase outstanding debts.

Dudley's cabinet member for finance, Councillor Pete Lowe, said: "Our high council tax collection rate places us joint second of all metropolitan councils, which benefits everyone by reducing administra-

tion costs and ensuring the council's spending programmes are properly funded."

But he said the council recognised the difficulties that hard-pressed residents and businesses were currently facing - so, from next April, they will be able to spread their payments over 12 months instead of the existing 10 months.

Better

Councillor Lowe said that, despite the difficult economic climate, Dudley's high level of collection was on a par with that of previous years and was much better than the average for metropolitan councils.

"We really appreciate the excellent payment record of most of Dudley's council tax and business rates payers, especially given the tough financial situation in which we find ourselves," he added.

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SUE 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223

LADY widow, 58, slim, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks smart, intelligent, easygoing man with GSOH who enjoys conversations, days out, short breaks, meals out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387247

SALLY slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTm similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393469 @

WIDOW 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387013

EASYGOING down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386893 @

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39YR old single female, hurt in past, animal lover, likes most things, seeking genuine man for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386887 @

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young friendly, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818 @

BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501 @

CHRIS attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392401 @

DENISE tall leggy good looking single mum, easygoing, enjoys nights in/out, animals, WLTm tall male for fun times possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391873 @

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 339373 @

YVONNE looking for Christian male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391135 @

MADELINE 5ft black seeks male 26-41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375789

IRENE 55, blonde hair, brown eyes, loving, caring, genuine, NIS, lots of love to give, seeks male 55-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392807

HELEN 34yr old single mum slim intelligent, seeks nice male for adult companionship with good potential for a great relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394121 @

SUSIE gorgeously feminine and sensual, loves lazy summer days, misses oleaze companionship WLTm someone with sense of adventure and lust for life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394117 @

LOUISE youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392491 @

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979 @

KAREN witty female who loves to laugh, WLTm similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393125 @

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883 @

FARMER'S granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WLTm countryman/bachelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387204

POLLY dark hair, 50, attractive, outgoing, seeks special outgoing male for days out etc. Telford. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 371127 @

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852 @

DIONNE 5ft 3ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, 42, single mum, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376801

JANICE attractive female, 50, size 12-14, seeks younger gent, 40-50 for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376115 @

KATHY caring lady 60, medium build, smoker, seeks caring, smart male 55-65 for companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 374773 @

BETTY fuller figured black female, 26, body confident, affectionate, WLTm older chocolate loving male for daytime meets. Any status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377511 @

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325 @

NICKY looking for attractive male 48-55yrs for fun, good times and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386393

50YR old female, seeks male for fun and socialising. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 233580

KIND loving lady 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391863

LONG haired blonde, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361076 @

CHLOE pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable male for mutual companionship maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387057 @

TALL curvy female, 36dd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 359238 @

HOLLY 25, slim, attractive, brunette, likes gym, WLTm nice, sensitive male of similar age for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380851 @

CLARE good looking, beautiful blonde, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378209 @

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTm male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376165 @

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317 @

ALICIA 19yr old green eyed female, very attractive, slim, long hair, independent, looking for fun with mature male, no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390059 @

ANNA 29yr old nurse, 6ft curvy auburn beauty, likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking older, well built male to look after, 40-59yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375139 @

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MATTHEW 5ft 3ins, medium build, good body, seeking fit female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393743

TIGER Woods lookalike, seeks big beautiful woman for fun and games. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393737 @

MALE 70's widow, kind, honest, caring, likes socialising, holidays, nights in/out, seeks loving female for respectful, caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393559

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NEWS

Veteran says ramp delay has trapped him in house

A FALKLANDS War veteran claims he has become a prisoner within his own home because the council has not yet installed a disability ramp.

Andrew Shutt, aged 54, served for 29 years in the armed forces before he suffered a serious stroke last November which has left him paralysed from the waist down.

But after being discharged more than four weeks ago, Mr Shutt is still to get a disability ramp installed outside his council home in Nanaimo Way, Kingswinford.

This week, Mr Shutt's wife and carer, Carol, said she was told it could be another week before the ramp was fitted.

As well as serving in the Falklands War, Mr Shutt also served in Noway, the Gulf and Northern Ireland and was awarded a British Empire Medal in 1990.

He retired in 2004 and worked as a medical engineer in Capital Medical until being made redundant in 2010.

Shocking

Mrs Shutt, 50, said: "My husband fought for this country, but now he is housebound because of some mix-up between some council officers.

"He's been housebound since he moved back, it's shocking."

Mrs Shutt said she could not move him outside of the home herself because of the weight of the wheelchair.

She said: "I'd been asking for the ramp when he was in hospital, but was told me they could not start an application for one before he is home."

Dudley councillor Steve Waltho, cabinet member for adult and community service, said: "We are aware of the urgency of this case and will be installing the ramp as soon as possible. However, sections of the specialist ramp are

having to be specifically manufactured for the job and this will be delivered to us shortly. We will then be able to carry out full construction of the ramp and aim to install it at the property in the week commencing August 13."

Andrew Shutt says he is a prisoner in his own home because of a delay in providing him with a disability ramp




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NEWS

Roadwork wrecking our business, claim traders



Struggling to survive – Dalvinder Kaur and Sukhwinder Singh from Olympia Fish Bar, Francene Roberts, from Evergreen Pharmacy, Eddie Woodward from The Lighthouse and Kim Aye, also from Evergreen Pharmacy

BUSINESSES along busy routes in Halesowen and Rowley Regis said they are losing thousands of pounds each month because of long-term roadworks which they say are hitting trade.

Engineers have made two roads one-way on the boundary between the towns while they replace gas mains as part of the 26-week project.

Traders in Gorsty Hill Road and Coombs Road said takings had dropped by half because customers are being put off. With the £500,000 project not due to finish until early October, some feared they may not recover.

Traders said there was a lack of parking and customers were being put off as they get stuck in traffic.

Bosses at Olympia chip shop, Coombs Road said it was losing £500 a week and profits had halved since work started. Owner and mother-of-two Dalvinder Kaur said: "We just want this work to be over. It is wrecking our business."

She is applying for compensation. Francene Roberts, assistant manager at Evergreen Pharmacy, Coombs Road, said: "Sales have been significantly down because people aren't just popping in."

The work is being carried out by National Grid, and at the same time South Staffs Water workers are replacing an old cast iron water main.

Pally Dhalwal, who runs Apex Wines, Gorsty Hill Road, said traders needed to be told more about the schedule of the works. The mother of two added: "Our business is down 55 per cent on average."

National Grid project manager Stan Best said: "This project is a major investment in the safety and reliability of Hurst Green's gas supply and will be a short-term inconvenience for a long term benefit."

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CLUB NEWS

Armchair tour starts off in jail

MYTIME OVER FIFTIES

FOLLOWING the AGM, MyTime Over Fifties commenced its new programme of meetings with Sandy Cole, from Worcester Walks, giving an "armchair tour" of Georgian Worcester.

Sandy greeted everyone wearing Georgian costume and began her talk with a brief picture of Worcester in the 18th Century.

The armchair tour started at jail, in Castle Street, built to look like a castle. The 190 cells were all empty during the First World War as free pardons were given to anyone who joined up. Next was Worcester Guild Hall, built by Thomas White, apprentice to Christopher Wren. This was used as a court of law and has cells that can be viewed view.

Next up was the Countess of Huntingdon Hall, once a Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, saved from demolition and now a concert hall, with original features intact.

Other buildings shown included the site of the first building where Lea and Perrins made their Worcester sauce, the Hop Pole Hotel, Star Hotel and the Berkley Almshouses dating from 1703. The birthplace of Hannah Snell is still to be seen. Disguised as a man, in 1747, she joined the Royal Marines, fought in India, and was the first woman soldier to be a Chelsea Pensioner.

The club meets in the Amblescot Room, Stourbridge Town Hall on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2pm.

Federation banner is carried by secretary

WEDNESBURY TOWNSWOMEN

SECRETARY Wendy Brown had the honour of carrying the South Staffs Federation banner at the Townswomen's Guilds Annual General Meeting at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham.

It was chaired by national chairman Pauline Myers with speakers being the newly-appointed national vice president Esther Rantzen CBE and Eric Knowles. The meeting concluded with a rendition by the ladies – clad in red, white and blue – of Rule Britannia and the TG anthem – I am a Small Part of the World.

Wednesbury members were entertained by husband and wife team John and Annette Christophers of Albrighton Pottery. Annette is also a talented watercolour artist.

The guild accepted an invitation to have a stall at a music festival at Wednesbury Rugby Club in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and the Neonatal Unit at New Cross Hospital. The guild showed its appreciation by making a donation.

The annual afternoon tea takes place at 2pm on August 13, at The Baptist Church, Vicar Street.



Secretary Wendy Brown carries the Guild banner at the South Staffs Federation AGM

Hats talk was fascinating

K'FORD LADIES SOCIAL CIRCLE

THE July meeting was a truly feminine event.

Mrs Catherine Clarke brought in a fantastic selection of designer hats and fascinators from her hat hire business in Blakedown.

She modelled each one and showed the correct way to wear them. She gave useful tips on the type and design that best complements a person's build and

personal features. Catherine had a range of distinctive matching clutch handbags that can complete the outfit.

She also had a collection of hats, donated to her, ranging from the 1920s, which are popular for themed parties.

Ann cooper gave a vote of thanks.

Ena Baker, Iris Ferreday and Janet Yates won the raffle. The chairman reported that events at The Whittington Inn and Val's afternoon tea party had been a success.

The next meeting will be the Harvest Supper and auction, held at the British Legion, on September 6.

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NEWS

Dog so badly injured vet had to put it down

Author's first novel



A JACK Russell dog was beaten so badly it was left with a hole in its head, a court heard.

It had to be put down due to the severity of its injuries, magistrates were told.

Vets treating the animal said they believed it had suffered a blow to the head on two occasions. Owners Jake Adderley, aged 22, and Rebecca Perkins, 20, both denied causing the pet's injuries.

But the pair, of Belmont Road, Brierley Hill, admitted causing unnecessary suffering to the dog by not providing adequate care for its head injuries.

Dudley Magistrates Court heard on August 2 the dog was taken to Water Front Veterinary Centre with a hole in its head and a fractured skull on October 28. It was struggling to stand due to brain damage.

One vet compared the injury to a case he had seen of a rottweiler being hit on the head by a golf club. The couple told RSPCA officers the dog had suffered a fit and fallen down the stairs. Mr Nick Sutton, prosecuting, said: "Someone has assaulted this animal and beaten it to death."

Perkins had taken the dog, which was bought through the internet, to vets on two previous occasions. On September 27, it was taken to the centre with swollen eyes. On October 14 it was taken to the PDPA with bruised eyes, swelling under the jaw and a fractured rib.

Mr Michael Davies, defending Perkins, said: "On October 28 she returned from shopping trip to find that the dog was in a very poor state, the injuries were apparent." He added: "She accepts that she should have known that between October 19 and 28 it was quite clear there was something wrong and she should have done something about it."

Mr John Harmshaw, defending Adderley, said: "He noticed things, but did not take action. I must add there were quite a number of other people who entered the home."

The pair will be sentenced next month.

David Massey will sign copies of Torn at Waterstones, Merry Hill
AN AUTHOR from Dudley is celebrating the release of his first book, which tells the story of an army medic on her first tour of duty in Afghanistan.

David Massey from Stourbridge has penned the teen novel Torn which has been published by Chicken House. The writer, who runs an emergency supplies organi-

sation with his wife Debi, is now busy writing his next book.

Torn is about 19-year-old Elinor Nielson who gets pulled into dangerous intrigue surrounding a mysterious young Afghan girl. In her search for the truth, her loyalties are divided between her colleagues and the displaced Afghan children.

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NEWS

NEWS
in briefEco project is
given go-ahead

PLANNING permission has been granted for a community allotment project at a Rowley Regis school as part of a £100,000 project that will create two jobs.

Rowley Hall Primary applied to Sandwell Council after winning a Lottery grant.

It took the Windsor Road school almost three years to secure the £102,000, which is being delivered over four years.

It will be spent on the eco project in disused part of the school field.

It will include poly tunnels as well as a portable cabin and compost toilets.

BMX park offer
for youngsters

FREE BMX coaching for children and young people is on offer this month.

They are at Britannia Park, Rowley Regis, August 14-16; Lightwoods Park, Smethwick, August 21-23; Victoria Park, Tipton, August 28-30.

The courses run from 11am to 3pm. Prizes will be up for grabs on final day at each park.

Staff aid charity

STAFF at Sandwell Council's revenues and benefits team raised £370 for Cancer Research. Staff at the Council House in Oldbury collected donations for the charity.

Inseparable sisters make it a double celebration

SISTERS Isabel and Anne Sidaway did everything together – naturally, they got married together as well.

The inseparable pair wore identical wedding dresses and even shared the same bridesmaids. Now in their 70s, they and their husbands quartet are as close as ever. And they have just celebrated their golden wedding anniversaries.

Isabel married Geoffrey Hill and Anne wed Ray Smith in the joint ceremony at St Luke's Church, Cradley Heath on August 4, 1962.

The women met their husbands at dances. Mr and Mrs Hill met at Hingley's in Old Hill and Mr and Mrs Smith in Wolverhampton. Mrs Hill said: "It just happened that we were both thinking of getting married that year so we thought it would save money with the one reception and wedding."

Cost

"We chose the pattern for the dress and we got a friend to make them up for us. We chose the material from a market in Bearwood and it was white with a silver trim."

"The material cost us £5 and I don't remember paying any money for them to be made. "Our tiaras cost the same, they were crystal, from Beatties in Corporation Street."

Mrs Hill said a joint wedding was unheard of at the time and their friends were at the church on the day cheering them on.

She said: "Our father Sidney Albert Sidaway walked us both down the aisle, one on each arm, and we were all stood at the front. Geoff and I took our vows first and then Anne and Ray."

The bridesmaids were Ray's niece Joy Fellows, the girls' younger sister Gill, who was about, and nieces Joy Rock, Gail Burgoyne and Mandy Smith.

They wore peach dresses, which matched



Golden memories for Geoff and Isabel, left, and Ray and Anne

Isabel and Anne's peach rose bouquets. Afterwards the couples enjoyed a joint wedding reception in a room above The Victoria pub in Old Hill.

The sisters and their husbands then travelled together by train to Devon for their honeymoons, but stayed in different towns. The Hills, who are both aged 74, of Cong-



The two couples pose for a photo on their wedding day

reaves Road, Cradley Heath, have two daughters, and had four grandchildren, one of whom has passed away. They also have a great-grandson.

After the wedding Mr and Mrs Smith travelled to Germany where Mr Smith was in the Army, and later he was sent to Hong Kong.

Both sisters agree that "give and take" is the secret to a long and happy marriage.

Mrs Hill added: "I think it is all about being realistic, it is not all about the wedding but the relationship."

The couples will be celebrating their anniversary with a cruise together later this year.

Planners' decision on hold for visit

A DECISION by planners at Sandwell Council to take a second look at a planning application for the multi-million pound expansion of a borough primary school has been welcomed.

A decision on the £5m expansion of Rowley Hall Primary School, in Rowley Regis, has been deferred so councillors can visit the site.

Education bosses have applied to expand the site, in Windsor Road, which would see buildings constructed to create classrooms, group teaching spaces, a nursery, hall and kitchen.

Objections

The increase in space would allow the school to operate a three-form entry system, and lead to 30 jobs being created.

Plans for the £4.9m scheme were due to be approved by the borough's planning committee last month.

Planning chiefs have now decided to visit the site after they received a number of objections.

The committee will visit the school on August 22.

Rowley ward representative Councillor Chris Trante said: "Residents expressed concern about their homes being overlooked and also the means of access to the site."

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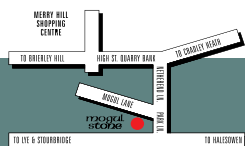
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NEWS

Crowds join town's Jamaica celebration



Left to right, Malachi Thomas, of the Association of Jamaican Nationals, Councillor Keith Davies, Derrick Campbell, Councillor Pat Davies, mayoress, Councillor Vic Silvester, deputy mayor, Carole Silvester, deputy mayoress, and Sarah Thomas, chair of the African Caribbean Resource Centre, West Bromwich

CROWDS gathered in Oldbury to mark 50 years of Jamaican independence.

Sandwell mayor Councillor Keith Davies was guest of honour at the event in Oldbury Civic Square. Also there were local residents who came to the UK on the Empire Windrush ship in 1948, among the first large group of

people from the Caribbean to arrive after the Second World War.

Derrick Campbell, of Rights & Equality Sandwell, compered the event and representatives from other groups including the African Caribbean Resource Centre in West Bromwich and the Community Action Project in Smethwick also marked the

occasion. Singer Laurel Robinson and the Dreemz choir performed the Jamaican national anthem as the Mayor raised the Jamaican flag.

Councillor Davies said: "It was wonderful to join together to mark this important anniversary for the Commonwealth."

Young girl savaged by dog

A DOG escaped from a garden in Tipton and attacked a young girl, a court heard.

Mark Price's Japanese Akita, called Miko, forced the eight-year-old to the ground, biting her arm and then shaking her leg in its mouth, Sandwell Magistrates' Court was told.

She has had three operations and may need plastic surgery.

District judge Michael Wheeler was persuaded not to pass a custodial sentence on Price but decided that Miko must be destroyed.

He also ordered Price to serve 120 hours unpaid work.

"Unfortunately a very serious attack on a very young girl took place," he said. "She suffered what are bordering on horrific injuries as a result of that attack and may need plastic surgery."

The attack happened as the girl was playing with a friend at a public grassed area in Kingsway Avenue on April 13.

A builder had left a back gate unlocked at Price's home, allowing Miko to escape, the court heard.

The girl suffered a four-inch wound to her lower right leg and a wound to

her right arm. Price, aged 43, of Kingsway Avenue, pleaded guilty to being the owner of a dog dangerously out of control in a public place.

Andrew Chowdhury, defending, urged Judge Wheeler not to order the destruction of the dog, stressing the attack was out of character.

But the judge said: "The problem is the predatory aggression by Miko and the way he behaved on this occasion and the way he is likely to behave...in the future."

As well as the community service, Price was told to pay £85 costs.

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Coach departs: Monday 8th October £196

Coach departs: Sunday 23rd December £365

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Day 2: A trip to the Victorian town of Ventnor on to the famous 'Needles' at **Alum Bay** ending the day in picture postcard **Godshill** including a cream tea at the **Old Smithy**.

Day 3: Trip to the **Newport**, in the afternoon we visit England's largest wine vineyard with plenty of samples!!

Day 4: There's so much to see and do in Sandown so we've left today free so you can explore at your own pace.

Day 5: A last hearty breakfast before we set off for home.

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NEW ALBUMS

Midrange Cheryl on light track



Cheryl back with a new album and a Birmingham gig

Cheryl - A Million Lights
THE Girls Aloud singer turned super-celeb doesn't need a surname anymore, like Madonna or Beyonce or a superstar footballer.

On her third album she doesn't push her vocals, keeping them midrange on a series of similar dancefloor orientated pop numbers with just the merest hint of trendy dubstep and a bigger dose of urban/R&B. It's all in the Rihanna, Madonna, Britney ballpark. Screw You is bound to excite speculation (hmm, who's that about?) whilst Sexy Den A Mutha is catchy enough to deliver her a big hit.

Cheryl is in concert at Birmingham LG Arena on October 12.

Linkin Park - Living Things

IT'S a balancing act for these Californian rockers on their fifth studio album, keeping the fans from the raw rap-rocking days alongside their pierced and less hirsute new following who probably listen to Coldplay and Kasabian too.

The result is an album with plenty of muscle, an excellent vocal performance by Chester Bennington and several anthemic rockers, especially the outstanding Burn It Down. It would have been even better with a little more anger, a bit more edge.

Flo Rida - Wild Ones
THE American rapper has gained the Midas touch with his blend of catchy pop and dance tunes, so much so that this set sounds like a greatest hits package in waiting.

The urban sounds are derivative but deliver hooks aplenty and driving beats, enhanced by a judicious use of samples from soul greats such as Freddie King and Etta James.

Good Feeling and Wild Ones, the latter a vehicle for the vocal talent of Sia, have already been international hits and the double entendre filled Whistle will make it three this summer.

The more laid back Let It Roll and In My Mind Part 2 (featuring an excellent guest vocal from Georgi Kay) are less frenetic. Sweet Spot will get plenty of attention thanks to a guest vocal from Jennifer Lopez and could that be Flo Rida (AKA Tramar Dillard) showing a sensitive side on I Cry?

It's a bit cheeky referring to a ninth track as a bonus but it's a good one, Flo Rida, Audra Mae and Redfoo from LMFAR turning Bryan Adams' Run To You into a dance anthem called Run.

Maroon 5 - Overexposed
AN ironic title for the Los Angeles group's fourth studio album, seeing as Moves Like Jagger has

become one of the best-selling singles of all time and frontman Adam Levine a star judge on the US version of The Voice.

They started as a rock band but have become steadily poppier until they now make bright and brash ear candy achieved by collaborating with the folks who work with Britney Spears, Katy Perry and Beyonce. Hence certain hits like Payphone (with rapper Wiz Kalifa) and Lucky Strike.

Levine's 'ey-oh' vocals recall the 80s, in fact opener One More Night could have come from The Police or Men At Work back catalogue.

But on the catchy Ladykiller he's more in a Michael Jackson mode.

It's interesting how the sunny style of the songs often contrasts with bitter lyrics.

Sounds like Adam wants to get even with some ladies.

And for those new to the band, the record company has tacked on a faithful version of Moves Like Jagger done in the studio for The Voice US and again featuring Christina Aguilera.

Sigur Ros - Valtari

ONE part Elbow to nine parts Pink Floyd, then chill to below zero, that's the recipe for Sigur Ros - Icelandic creators of hazy, elegant mood music.

On Valtari they take their symphonic sound to spiritual levels, way beyond the reach of most rock bands.

This is especially apparent with the choral harmonies of what, in the absence of Icelandic letters on my keyboard, I shall have to refer to as track five.

This music has a slow bleak beauty which makes the fact that the lyrics are sung in Icelandic irrelevant.

You don't so much listen to Valtari as dissolve into it.

Leon Burakowski

Kimbra's pop pledge

Kimbra - Vows

BEST known for her vocal contribution to Gotye's massive hit Somebody That I Used To Know (not included here), Kiwi pop star Kimbra is New Zealand's answer to Paloma Faith.

She's got a likeable warble and her quirky and funky take on pop recalls the likes of The Cardigans, De-lite and even Prince. Highlights include Cameo Lover, Settle Down and the Bjork-ish Something In The Way You Are. She's in concert at Birmingham's Glee Club on August 29.

The Gaslight Anthem - Handwritten

The New Jersey rockers continue to cement their place in the hearts of trad rock fans with their third album. It's produced by former Bruce Springsteen and Peet Marone. Brendan O'Brien, two artists that sum up Gaslight Anthem's musical DNA. Highlights include the fast-paced title track and new single 45, romantic rocker Here Comes My Man, the swaggering Biloxi Parish, the poignant slow-burner Mae and the acoustic guitar and strings of the closing National Anthem. See them at Birmingham O2 Academy on October 20.

Conor Maynard - Contrast

Apparently, 19-year-old Conor hates being compared with Justin Bieber. Fair enough, because the rising star from Brighton looks a bit more Lee Nelson than the Canadian wunderkind. Musically, Conor delivers a catchy blend of bleeping,



Kimbra - quirky Kiwi pop

scurrying pop that owes as much to video games, cartoon themes and irritating ringtones as R&B.

He's got a reasonable pop voice and certainly has catchiness sorted out, just check out the two hit singles Can't Say No and Vegas Girl included on this debut. Having Jessie J's producers on board can't hurt, especially when he can summon such guests as Ne-Yo, Pharrell and rising star Rita Ora.

Delilah - From The Roots Up

A promising debut from a London singer who had a hit with Go, included here. She has a voice akin to The Cranberries' Dolores O'Riordan and Bjork, her mostly self or co-written songs have roots in trance dance but one gets the feeling that she could



Conor Maynard - two hits already

strike off in almost any direction from here.

Plan B - Ill Manors

Not the commercial suicide some had predicted, Plan B's (Ben Drew's) return to wholehearted rap with the grime, gritty subject matter has won praise for his state-of-the-nation snapshot of post-rict Britain. It's took him back to the top of the charts but I can't imagine it's the same audience that latched on to his radio-friendly soul boy singles.

The emphasis is on the lyrics and there are curious elements among the anticipated grime and reggae influences, including a guest appearance by punk poet John Cooper Clarke and some effectively used classical music samples. Ill

Manors is a bleak vision of an urban wasteland filled with drugs, danger and despair. Only those who live on these London estates know how accurate the picture is. Tough subject, tough language and a tough listen.

Amy MacDonald - Life In A Beautiful Light

The Scottish singer-songwriter is a class act though perhaps lacks a consistency as a top quality tunesmith. Her folk-like clarity and light Scots accent plus acoustic guitar lends a rootsiness to the pop/rock sound of her third album.

Stand-out track is the free-wheeling single Slow Down.

Leon Burakowski

Street gets tree facelift

SPRING blossom trees have been planted to give a West Bromwich street a facelift.

The scheme has been organised by the Essex Avenue Community Association which was formed early this year and received a Community First grant. The £2,500 has been used to hold a special event to encourage neighbours to work as a community and to have the trees planted.

"The event was a huge success with up to 140 adults and children attending", said association chairman Denise Hesson.

Councillor David Hosell said: "This was an excellent example of how the community and the council can work together."

Man injured as cars crash on petrol station forecourt

A MAN was knocked down while he was filling up with fuel when another car hit his vehicle at a supermarket petrol station.

The man, in his 40s, suffered suspected spinal injuries and was given pain relief by medics before being taken to hospital. The petrol station, off Freeth Street, in Oldbury, was closed for two hours following the accident.

Police spokesman Brigg Ford said officers were looking into the crash but added: "It looks like a genuine accident."

Ambulance spokesman Steve Parry said: "A man had been reportedly in collision with a car while refuelling his vehicle at the petrol station."

"When crews arrived they found a man in his forties lying on the floor near the vehicles. He had sustained suspected spinal injuries."

"The patient was given pain relief and immobilised with the use of a neck collar and placed on a spinal board before being taken to hospital in Birmingham."

"The female car driver was treated for minor injuries at the scene."

Sainsbury's deputy manager Gary Amos said: "We had to close the petrol station for about two hours to allow the police to carry out their inquiries. No damage was done to the petrol station."



The cars after the crash on the forecourt

Fifty Shades is library hit

SANDWELL Council's library service has ordered more copies of bestseller Fifty Shades of Grey to meet soaring demand.

Copies of the EL James' novel are flying off the shelves at libraries in the borough, as are other books in the series, Fifty Shades Darker and Fifty Shades Freed.

The library service is also piloting a shorter loan period of two weeks so customers can borrow the books as quickly as possible. If the scheme is successful the library service will introduce a regular short-loan service for more popular titles.

Library books can be reserved for free at a local library or online at www.sandwell.gov.uk/libraries.

Olympic fun day thrills and spills



Jack Smith, aged 15, from Yew Tree, enjoys the fun day



Water lot of fun was had at the event in Tipton

YOUNGSTERS enjoyed a day of rough and tumble at an Olympic-themed fun day in Sandwell.

Organised by the borough's shadow youth cabinet, the Olympic-themed event featured activities from electronic games to riding a rodeo bull.

It took place at the Coneygre Centre, in Sedgley Road East, Tipton.

Activities at the event on Thursday last week included electronic games on a large screen, pool games, large floor games, climbing wall, canoeing, rodeo bull and competitive sports games, music and dancing.

Councillor Linda Horton, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for leisure services, said: "It's great to hear our youth cabinet taking a lead on celebrating the Olympics and providing fun and constructive activities for young people to do during the summer holidays."

Old council building is to be bulldozed

APPROVAL has been given for the demolition of the former municipal building in Cradley Heath to pave the way for redeveloping the site.

The demolition will make way for a new £3 million fire station. Part of the site will be used for car parking by Sandwell Leisure Trust.

The fire station will replace the Halesowen and Cradley Heath fire stations and the cost will be offset by the generation of the estimated £1.5m from the sale of the two sites.

Halesowen Fire Station, in Hagley Road, was closed in May. Its firefighters have been redeployed to other stations in the area until the fire hub is built.

The municipal building, on the corner of Barrs Road and Halesowen Road, was built in 1938 and has been used as council offices since 1974. Last year Sandwell Council announced it would be closing the building and council workers have moved out.

Planning officers at Sandwell Council have granted demolition consent using delegated powers.

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What's On! Halesowen

Artists to put on exhibition

ARTISTS from the Black Country are staging an exhibition featuring more than 100 pieces of artwork depicting animals and plants. It is being held at Hurst Green Methodist Church, Narrow Lane, Halesowen, from August 13 to 18.

It will feature work created by the Black Country Artists group with its 25 members exhibiting at least four pieces. People will be able to see the paintings from 10am to 5pm.

Organisers say there will be items to suit a wide variety of tastes.

A night of fun at half the price

FAMILIES can get into the Black Country Living Museum for half price and enjoy some musical entertainment, including a performance from the Fizzog theatre group.

The Halesowen-based comedy show on August 18 will feature The Froggatts and The Cotterills. It starts at 6.30pm. Tickets are, adults £7 and children £4 and must be pre-booked at www.bclm.co.uk/bookings or on 0121 5208054.

Get pedalling

CYCLISTS in Halesowen are being urged to get on their bikes and encourage others to do the same as part of the national initiative, Summer of Cycling. To get involved people can log on to www.summerofcycling.net

Vintage comedy Dandy Dick aims to be a West End winner

ACTRESS Patricia Hodge – now best known as mother of Miranda in the hit TV comedy series – stars with Nicholas Le Prevost in a revival of Victorian comedy Dandy Dick, which is coming to Birmingham before heading for London's West End.

National Theatre actor Le Prevost plays a highly respectable clergyman torn between his horror of gambling and a huge bill for church restoration. This is his dilemma when his racy widowed sister Georgiana (Hodge) offers him a hot tip on her horse Dandy Dick.

Meanwhile, the Very Reverend Augustin Jedd's two daughters are plotting how they can escape the family home without a chaperone to be wooed by a couple of army officers.

Rotten fresh

PIL, Wulfrun Hall
IF anger is an energy, as John Lydon sings on Rise, then it still fuels the former Johnny Rotten.

Spiky haired and prickly by nature, Lydon risked sell-out allegations via TV adverts for butter to fund the latest album by Pil, the band he founded after the demise of the Sex Pistols more than 30 years ago. The blend of Lydon's declamatory vocals with Lu Edmonds' cascading guitar (and banjo!) plus dub grooves was formidable in this two hour show, and Lydon especially fierce on Religion. No nostalgia here with The Flowers of Romance sounding fresh and new songs like One Drop fitting right in. Best of all, he still means it, maan!

Leon Burakowski

Farce

This light farce and comedy of manners set in a Victorian drawing-room was a success in its day for playwright Arthur Wing Pinero, who was once as popular as Oscar Wilde and George Bernard Shaw. Its last major revival was in 1987.

Adapted and directed by Christopher Luscombe, Dandy Dick will be staged at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre from August 21 to 25.

Call the box office on 0844 871 3011.



A scene from Dandy Dick featuring Nicholas Le Prevost and Patricia Hodge

Bolly good Shakespeare

Much Ado About Nothing, Courtyard Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

THE Bard goes Bollywood in Iqbal Khan's vibrant version of Shakespeare's play about love and honour. After the RSC's African Julius Caesar, the World Shakespeare Festival continues with Much Ado switched from medieval Sicily to modern India – Shakespeare with a bhangra beat.

Staffordshire actress Meera Syal is in fine form as the formidable Beatrice, her humour laced with melancholy. Sparks fly when she meets her match in wise-cracking Benedick, played by Paul Bhattacharjee.

There is a dark undercurrent in how her cousin suffers for apparently bringing shame upon the family when jilted on her wedding day. There is fun from Anjana Vasani as a put-upon maid and Simon Nagra as a word-jumbling constable.

Much Ado is at Stratford until September 15.

Leon Burakowski

Be creative down at park

VISITORS to a Halesowen park will be able to create their own artwork from items they find around the site at an event staged at the beauty spot.

It is part of a range of activities organised at The Leasowes, off Mucklow Hill, to keep youngsters entertained over the summer holiday.

Booking is essential on 01384 814642. People are asked to meet at the warden base, off Mucklow Hill, before all activities.

The natural art activity will take part from 10am to noon on August 15.

Spring into action just like Kristian

HALESOWEN youngsters can follow in the footsteps of Olympic hero Kristian Thomas by taking part in sessions at the gym where he honed his skills.

Children aged between five and 12 can take part in the sessions being held at Earls Gymnastics Club, Furnace Lane, from August 14 to 16. The club has been used by Kristian throughout his career.

The gymnastics sessions cost £4 each or £10 for a full week booking. Call 01384 815594.

Something fishy

CREATIVE children will get their chance to make their own colourful Japanese fish at Halesowen Library. The free event will be held on August 16 from 2.15pm. All of the materials will be provided.

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What's On!

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CHOICE



Gary Lineker

Olympics 2012

BBC1, 7.15pm

Gary Lineker presents the concluding evening of sport in the Games, with an exciting night of action in store on the track and at the Aquatics Centre. At the Olympic Stadium, Mo Farah is expected to be in the running for gold in the 5,000m. Farah won this event at last year's World Championships in Daegu and will be determined to give the British fans something to cheer about after their support for Team GB throughout the three weeks. However, the east African contingent will be doing its best to ensure he does not have things all his own way.

BBC1

6.00 Olympic Breakfast. Chris Hollins and Sian Williams present a round-up of national and international news, and a look ahead to the day's events in the Olympic Games. **9.00** Olympics 2012. Mishal Husain and Rishi Persad present this morning's opening coverage on the penultimate day of the Games, featuring the concluding canoe sprint finals, as the men's diving. **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Olympics 2012. The women's mountain bike cross-country final. **2.30** Olympics 2012. The men's football final (Kick-off 3.00pm). Jake Humphrey is at Wembley Stadium to present this afternoon's fixture, as the successors to Argentina will be decided. **5.15** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.30** Olympics 2012. The conclusion of the men's modern pentathlon.

7.15 Olympics 2012. Gary Lineker introduces the concluding evening of athletics coverage at the Olympic Stadium, and the final of the men's 10m platform diving competition at the Aquatics Centre.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws. Jenni Falconer presents as the balls are set rolling to decide the all-important numbers. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

10.40 Olympics Tonight. Gabby Logan and guests look back on the penultimate day's events at the London Games, and preview tomorrow's final day.

12.00 BBC News. **12.10** Olympic Sportsday. Dan Walker looks back at the 15th day's events. **12.55** Weatherview. **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **11.55** Animal Park. (R) **12.55** Film: The Journey of Natty Fann. (1985) Disney adventure, starring John Cusack and Meredith Salenger. **2.30** Film: The Quick Gun. (1964) Western, starring Audie Murphy. **4.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.45** Antiques Road Trip. (R) **5.30** Entertaining the Troops.

6.30 Flog III. The team heads to Northwich, Cheshire, where items of interest include pottery and Aboriginal art, and Paul Martin takes a guided tour of the Moorcroft factory. (R)

7.30 Dad's Army. Hodges challenges Captain Mainwaring's platoon to a cricket match. Featuring a guest appearance by former England and Yorkshire fast bowler Fred Trueman. (R)

8.00 BBC Proms 2012. From the Royal Albert Hall in London, the Halle and conductor Mark Elder celebrate the work of Ivor Novello, with soprano Sophie Bevan and tenor Toby Spence.

9.20 Film: London - The Modern Babylon. (2012) Premiere. Film-maker Julien Temple explores London's history from the beginning of the 20th century, revealing the people who have shaped the city over the years.

11.25 TOTP2. Mark Radcliffe presents performances by Thin Lizzy, Gotye, Siouxsie and the Banshees, Swing Out Sister, Tight Fit, New Order, Bow Wow Wow and the Rattles; (R) National Lottery Update.

12.25 Film: The Last Shot. (2004) Crime comedy, with Matthew Broderick and Alec Baldwin. **1.50** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.20** CITV. **8.25** Saturday Cookbook. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.15** The Real Housewives of New York City. **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **1.10** Film: Wild Wild West. (1999) Sci-fi Western comedy, starring Will Smith. **3.10** Film: For Your Eyes Only. (1981) James Bond spy thriller, starring Roger Moore. **5.30** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 Agatha Christie's Marple. A weekend party at a country house is marred by the discovery of a body in a secret passageway within its walls. Murder mystery, starring Julia McKenzie, with Ruth Jones. (R)

8.00 Midsomer Murders. The president of an ornithological society is found dead after an argument about a rare bird sighting. Guest starring Paul Nicholls and James Dreyfus. (R)

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Mad Mad World. David Hasselhoff, Louie Spence and Coleen Nolan join Rufus Hound, Rhys Darby and regular panelist Rob Rouse for the comedy quiz. Presented by Paddy McGuinness. Last in the series.

10.50 Take Me Out. A care worker, a student, a publisher and a sales director try to impress 30 single women, and last week's couples go on their dates. Paddy McGuinness presents. (R)

12.00 The Store. ITV News Headlines. **2.05** In Plain Sight. (R) **2.50** ITV Nightvision. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** Film Superbike World Championship 2012. (R) **6.55** British F3. **7.20** Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 - Mandip Sehmi Part III. (R) **7.25** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Ibiza Rocks: Professor Green. (R) **9.15** T4: Festival: The Countdown. **9.50** T4: New Girl. (R) **10.20** T4: Revenge. **11.20** T4: Suburgatory. **11.55** T4: Summer Daze. **12.25** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 - Danielle Brown Part III. (R) **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.20 Channel 4 News.

6.50 4thought.tv. Atheist teenager Rhys Morgan claims teachers are under pressure to side with religious students in discussions with non-believers.

6.55 Film: The Curious Case of Benjamin Button. (2008) A baby is born with the physique of a geriatric - and over a long and eventful life, grows younger with each passing year. Fantasy drama, starring Brad Pitt.

10.00 The Million Pound Drop. With Jedward and cricketers Stuart Broad and James Anderson. Last in the series.

11.50 Film: A Prophet. (2009) Premiere. A crook is sent to a French prison dominated by rival Corsican and Muslim gangs, where he forms his own crime syndicate. Crime drama, with Tahar Rahim.

2.35 The Million Pound Drop. (R) **4.10** Happy Endings. **4.30** Countdown. (R) **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.10** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.15** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **11.35** Big Brother: The Eviction. (R) **12.35** Ice Road Truckers: Deadliest Roads. (R) **1.35** Film: Sands of the Kalahari. (1965) **3.15** Film: Jesse Stone: Sea Change. (2007) **5.20** Film: Avaranche Weekend. (1979) **7.05** 5 News Weekend.

7.10 NCIS. The body of a Muslim marine is found near a mosque that has been linked to al-Qaeda, but Ducky refuses to perform an autopsy out of respect for the dead man's religion. (R)

8.10 NCIS. Gibbs and the team set up a stake-out to catch a thief suspected of selling hi-tech Navy equipment on the black market, but end up witnessing a murder. (R)

9.00 Big Brother. The latest highlights, including another chance to see the last normal evictee before the housemates enter the final week and the race to become this year's winner begins.

10.10 CSI: Miami. A sinister phone call alerts the team to the existence of a killer who has murdered a prostitute and kidnapped another. Guest starring Ed Begley Jr.

11.05 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Nick investigates the death of an accountant and discovers links to his own kidnapping ordeal. (R)

12.05 SuperCasino. **4.00** HouseBusters. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** Rough Guide to Islands. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
6.00 Olympics 2012 **9.00** Olympics 2012 **2.00** Olympics 2012 **8.00** Olympics 2012

BBC Four
7.00 Africa's Magnificent Beasts: Elsa - The Lioness That Changed the World **8.00** 10 Things You Didn't Know About Tsunamis **9.00** Wallander: The Fifth Woman **10.55** Top of the Pops: 1977 **11.25** Timeshift: Dear Censor

ITV2
2.35 America's Got Talent: Results **5.25** Film: The Flintstones (1994) **7.15** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) Comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson. **9.00** Film: The 40 Year Old Virgin (2005)

ITV3
6.00 Film: Carry On Jack (1963) **7.55** Film: City of Angels (1998) Romantic fantasy, starring Nicolas Cage and Meg Ryan. **10.00** Agatha Christie's Marple

ITV4
2.25 Film: Spartacus (1960) **6.15** Live Football. Real Madrid v Celtic (Kick-off 6.30pm). **8.45** Greatest World Cup Matches **9.00** Film: Rocky II (1979) Boxing drama sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone. **11.25** Film: Child's Play 3 (1991)

E4
3.05 Desperate Housewives **4.00** Revenge **5.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** Rules of Engagement **8.30** Suburgatory **9.00** Film: The Waterboy (1998) Sporting comedy, starring Adam Sandler. **10.45** The Big Bang Theory

Film4
3.05 King Solomon's Mines (1985) **5.05** Love Story (1970) **7.05** Big Momma's House (2000) **9.00** The Ghost (2010) **11.30** Final Destination 3 (2006)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 12.08.12

CHOICE



Boris Johnson

Olympics 2012: Closing Ceremony BBC1, 9pm

If the opening ceremony is anything to go by, we're in for a real humdinger when it comes to London 2012's grand finale. Certain aspects appear in each such ceremony, including the symbolic handing over of the Olympic flag to the next host of the summer games, the march of the athletes and the extinguishing of the Olympic flame. But there's also a show involving more than 4,000 volunteers. But it's the big-name performers we're most interested in. Rumour has it that the Spice Girls will reform.

BBC1

6.00 Olympic Breakfast. Chris Hollins and Sian Williams present a round-up of national and international news, and a look ahead to the final day's events in the Olympic Games. **9.00** Olympics 2012. **10.45** BBC News. **10.50** Olympics 2012. Matt Baker and Tanni Grey-Thompson introduce coverage of the men's marathon, which gets under way at 1.00 on the Mall. **1.20** Olympics 2012. Jake Humphrey and Manish Bhasin introduce this afternoon's concluding men's boxing finals at the ExCel, London, where the last five divisions are decided. **4.00** Olympics 2012. Clare Balding and Gabby Logan present the conclusion of the women's modern pentathlon at Greenwich Park, where the last medals of London 2012 will be decided.

7.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

7.30 Olympics 2012. A look back at the London Games, 16 days of high-quality competition at venues around the country, focusing on the achievements of the British squad.

9.00 Olympics 2012: Closing Ceremony. Live coverage of the ceremony to celebrate 16 days of sporting achievement, including the extinguishing of the flame and the handover to 2016 hosts Rio de Janeiro.

11.30 BBC News: Weather.

11.50 Live at the Apollo. Stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo. (R) **12.35** The Sky at Night. Patrick Moore and the team visit amateur astronomers at their home observatories, finding out why they spend their nights stargazing. **12.55** Weatherview. **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Raymond Blanc: The Very Hungry Frenchman. (R) **1.15** Olympics 2012. The men's mountain bike cross-country final. **3.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **3.40** Flog It! (R) **4.25** Eisteddfod 2012 with Cerys Matthews. **4.55** Songs of Praise. **5.30** Coast. (R) **6.00** Oceans. The first of two episodes exploring the Indian Ocean. (R)

7.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the experts examine more rarities at Tatton Park in Cheshire, including an instand with a link to Admiral Nelson and a precious item lurking in a box of jewellery. (R)

8.00 Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure. Ken Hom and Ching-He Huang visit Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province, sampling the spices that make its food unique and searching the back streets for authentic dishes and snacks.

9.00 The Dark Nature's Nighttime World. Justine Evans films a puma's nocturnal hunting behaviour, Gordon Buchanan investigates a mystery in the Magellan Strait and George McGavin tracks a vampire bat. Last in the series.

10.00 Film: *Glorious 39*. (2009) An actress becomes suspicious of a friend's suicide and uncovers a sinister government plot to avert war with Germany at all costs. Steven Poliakoff's period thriller, starring Romola Garai and Bill Nighy. **12.05** Film: *Sirens*. (1994) **1.35** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.20** CITV. **8.25** Dinner Date. (R) **9.25** House Like Home. (R) **10.25** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **11.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** Grimmett's. (R) **1.00** The Community Shield Live. Manchester City v Chelsea (Kick-off 1.30pm). **3.50** Film: *Escape to Victory*. (1981) Second World War adventure, starring Michael Caine and Sylvester Stallone.

6.00 You've Been Framed! A selection of camcorder calamities, including a beahtoxing baby and an attack by cherry tomatoes. Narrated by Harry Hill. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News: Weather.

7.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot. The detective's friend (guest star Martin Shaw) hosts a cocktail party in Cornwall, where a priest chokes to death - and weeks later another guest dies in similar circumstances. (R)

9.00 A Touch of Frost. Part two of two. Mullett becomes convinced Frost's life is in danger as they investigate a series of copycat murders. David Jason and Bruce Alexander star. (R)

11.00 ITV News: Weather. **11.15** The Community Shield Highlights. Manchester City v Chelsea. Matt Smith presents action from the traditional curtain-raiser to the top-flight campaign, held at Villa Park. **12.20** The Briefs. (R) **1.15** The Store. Home shopping; ITV News Headlines. **3.00** Golden Balls. (R) **3.50** Motorsport UK. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Road to London 2012: Paralympics Extra. A preview of the cycling events. **6.35** Outlaw Triathlon. **7.30** Surfing Special: The Endless Winter. **7.55** Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 - Hannah Cockcroft Part III. (R) **8.00** Will & Grace. (R) **8.30** Will & Grace. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** Film: *Nine Months*. (1995) **4.20** Film: *Entrapment*. (1999)

6.25 Deal or No Deal. Noel Edmonds hosts the game show in which contestants try to guess the values of mystery boxes.

7.25 Channel 4 News.

7.55 4thought.tv. A Muslim student discusses religious education.

8.00 Come Dine with Me. Four contestants compete to win the £1,000 cash prize in Enfield, north London, and two of them are soon vying to be the centre of attention.

9.00 Thea's Gypsy Girls. The trainees design dresses for their own catwalk show and visit a fashion museum for inspiration, but two of them decide to leave the course early. Last in the series. **10.25** Film: *Wedding Crashers*. (2005) Two party-mad bachelors who gatercrash weddings to pick up women find their lives become complicated when one of them falls in love. Comedy, with Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn. **12.45** Film: *Norwegian Wood*. (2010) **3.00** Perfect. (R) **3.10** Hollywoods. (R) **5.20** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fill and the Flowerpots. (R) **6.25** City of Friends. (R) **6.40** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **7.25** Play! (R) **7.35** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.45** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.50** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.15** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.30** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **9.10** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.10** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.15** Big Brother. (R) **12.25** Film: *The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl*. (2005) **2.10** Film: *Tinker Bell and the Great Fairy Rescue*. (2010) **3.40** Film: *The Karate Kid Part II*. (1986) **5.50** Film: *The Goonies*. (1985) **7.55** *Once Upon a Time*. August's real identity is revealed.

9.00 Big Brother. The last daily round-up of highlights before tomorrow's final, as the remaining housemates focus their eyes on the main prize, having survived 10 weeks at Big Brother's pleasure.

10.00 Film: *Cradle 2 the Grave*. (2003) Action thriller, with Jet Li, DMX and Mark Dacascos.

12.05 America's Toughest Prisons. (R) **1.05** SuperCasino. **4.00** Sons of Anarchy. **4.45** Rough Guide to Adventures. (R) **5.00** Hand's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear USA Road Trip **8.10** Film: *War of the Worlds* (2005)
10.00 Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** Olympics' Most Amazing Moments

BBC Four
7.00 Pop Go the Sixties **7.05** Himalaya with Michael Palin **8.05** Reputations **9.00** Frankie Howard **10.00** Parkinson **10.35** Omnibus: *Gore Vidal's Gore Vidal* **11.25** Wilderness Explored

ITV2
3.00 The Xtra Factor: Kelly's Best and Worst **4.00** The Xtra Factor: Tulisa's Best and Worst **5.00** The Xtra Factor: Gary's Best and Worst **6.00** The Xtra Factor Revisited **7.00** Film: *Land of the Lost* (2009) **9.00** Benidorm **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.45** Lemon La Vida Loca **11.30** Film: *Analyze This* (1999)

ITV3
3.35 Film: *City of Angels* (1998) **5.45** Film: *Arthur 2: On the Rocks* (1988) **8.00** Forensic Casebook with Matthew Kelly **9.00** Film: *The Birds* (1963) **11.25** Cracker

ITV4
11.00 British Touring Car Championship. **6.00** Goodwood Festival of Speed **2012** **7.00** Film: *The Far Country* (1954) **9.00** Film: *Fantastic Four* (2005) **10.05** Rude Tube: Ultimate Stunts **11.05** 2 Broke Girls **11.35** New Girl

E4
2.35 Holy Man (1998) **4.50** Battle for the Planet of the Apes (1973) **6.35** The Day After Tomorrow (2004) **9.00** Top Gun (1986) **11.10** Inglourious Basterds (2009)

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Film Choices

MONDAY

Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery, Channel 5, 11.25pm

A velvet-clad, sex-crazed secret agent from the 1960s agrees to be put into a state of suspended animation after his arch-enemy escapes justice. Thirty years later he is defrosted to do battle with the power-mad villain again, but the mission proves nearly as daunting for him as getting to grips with 1990s social values. Spoof spy adventure, with Mike Myers. (1997)

TUESDAY

The Specialist, ITV1, 10.35pm

An explosives expert is reluctantly persuaded out of retirement by the charms of a vengeful woman bent on destroying the gang that murdered her parents in cold blood. He carries out a series of assassinations with expert precision but finds himself caught in a deadly game of cat and mouse when it is revealed a target has hired a former colleague to track him down. Action thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone, Sharon Stone, James Woods, Rod Steiger and Eric Roberts. (1994)



The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, Friday, BBC2, 9pm

WEDNESDAY

The Invisible, BBC1, 12.15am

A teenager is attacked and left for dead in the woods, where he finds himself caught in a state between life and death, and invisible to everyone around him. As he observes the investigation into his disappearance, he realises that his only hope of returning to the land of the living is to persuade his assailant to confess. Thriller, starring Justin Chatwin, Marcia Gay Harden, Margarita Levieva and Christopher Marquette. (2007)

THURSDAY

Cheating Fate, Channel 5, 3.10pm

A woman renovating an old house discovers a magical antique music box, and finds that every time it is opened the events of the past seem altered. She continually uses the box in the hope of reversing the tragedy of her husband and daughter's death, but in the process risks losing everything that matters to her. Fantasy thriller, with Brooke Burns. (2007)

FRIDAY

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, BBC2, 9pm

Bruno, a young boy in Nazi Germany, moves to the country when his father is placed in charge of a concentration camp. While exploring the woods near the camp's fence, he meets a Jewish boy being held there, and the two youngsters become friends. But Bruno remains innocently oblivious to the camp's horrific true purpose. Drama, starring David Thewlis, Asa Butterfield and Jack Scanlon. (2008)

Pick of the Week

Love triangle leads to a crime of passion

Yes, it boasts a tremendous cast, the episodes are all written or co-written by the acclaimed Jimmy McGovern, and it explores how ordinary people can find themselves standing in the dock, on trial for the most horrifying crimes. But for many people, the real draw of the second series of **Accused (Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm)** is the chance to see Sean Bean in drag.

Luckily, the BBC isn't going to make us wait, as he stars in the first of the six stand-alone dramas, playing college teacher Simon Gaskell, who leads an intriguing double life. In the evenings, he is a transvestite called Tracie Tremar, who does the rounds of Manchester's bars looking for love.

Bean admits he didn't immediately jump at the chance to put on his stilettoes. "I had a call from my agent saying, 'Do you fancy playing a transvestite?' I said, 'Not really, why?'"

"But as soon as she said it was a Jimmy McGovern project, who I've wanted to work with for a while, I was interested."

Even once he'd accepted the role, there were challenges in store.

"There I am, a big bloke, it's a week before filming and I'm practising walking in high heels round my house. It felt like I was on stilts. I thought this hurts. I'll never stop hobbling, I need to be able to get my balance and posture right. My sympathies go out to women now. I understand what they go through!"

"Mind you, I can say I've really got the hang of heels now, I don't think they're that bad. I can dance in them too."

But he's keen to point out that there's more to the opening episode of **Accused** than the chance to see one of Britain's most successful – and most rugged – actors as we've never seen him before.

"The script was brilliant, and very moving. It's a really touching story about a complicated man. He has a relationship with another man, which develops into deep love, and then spirals out of control into something quite dark and disturbing."

The trouble starts when Tracie meets Tony (Stephen Graham), a

satellite and aerial engineer who rescues her from an altercation with a group of blokes on a stag night. Love begins to blossom, but Tony has a secret of his own – he's married to beautician Karen (Rachel Leskovac), and while he's smitten with Tracie, he does still care about his wife.

The result is a love triangle that points to a terrible crime of passion.

Bean says: "It's not about sex; it's about falling in love. In Tracie's case it's with the wrong person, which is something everyone can relate to whatever their preferences are."

But while things look set to end badly for Tracie and Tony, the actor had a much more positive time.

"The experience of being Tracie was great fun and really liberating. I've not had an adrenalin rush like it for ages..."

"This role has been a great opportunity. It's one of the most challenging parts I've ever done; it's so far from my perceived image. I can't think of anything that compares. I can't put it."



Stephen Graham and Sean Bean star in **Accused**, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Escape from Colditz, Channel 4, 9pm

Several episodes of the acclaimed 1970s TV series **Colditz** featured Jeremy Kemp as an academic-turned-pilot obsessed with the idea of building and then flying a glider out of the PoW camp. The true story of that audacious bid is charted in this fascinating documentary. By the time the glider was ready to fly, the conflict was almost over, so it was never used – and nobody is sure it would have worked anyway. However, Cambridge engineer Dr Hugh Hunt is determined to find out whether anybody could have made good a getaway using this method, and decides to test it out with help from various aeronautics engineers and carpenters, who rebuild the glider using the same materials the inmates had at their disposal.

Ruth Rendell's Thirteen Steps Down, ITV1, 9pm

By day, Mix Cellini (Luke Treadaway) seems like a fairly average young man, albeit one with an unusual name and a sideline in offering his sexual services to rich, bored women. But by night he's consumed with his twin obsessions – the infamous serial killer of the 1940s and 1950s, Reginald Christie, and the supermodel Nerissa Nash (Elicia Gallacher). With that premise, you don't need to know that this drama is based on a novel by crime queen Ruth Rendell to guess it's going to end very badly indeed. When Mix's girlfriend dares to criticise Nerissa, it causes his obsessions to collide in dangerous fashion.

TUESDAY

Emmerdale, ITV1, 7pm

Uprooting your entire life to move to the other side of the world, where you'll be stuck playing gooseberry to your best mate and his new bride (who also happens to be your ex) isn't everyone's idea of an exciting fresh start. Yet Rhona and Paddy have somehow convinced themselves that Marlon must have an ulterior motive for wanting to stay in Emmerdale, and now they think they know what it is – Laurel. Paddy confronts his friend, demanding to know why he didn't tell him about the relationship, and when Marlon makes it clear he and Laurel aren't yet ready to go public, the vet sees a chance for a spot of blackmail.

WEDNESDAY

Live International Football, ITV1, 7.30pm

England face the might of Italy once again in a friendly encounter at the Stade de Suisse Wankdorf in Berne, Switzerland. The sides met as recently as June, when Roy Hodgson's men suffered penalty shootout heartbreak at the hands (or possibly the feet) of the Italians in the quarter-finals of Euro 2012. Despite a courageous defensive display from the English, Cesare Prandelli's men were the dominant side for much of the match and will perhaps enter this contest as slight favourites.

The Flowerpot Gang, BBC1, 8pm

Anneka Rice, Phil Tufnell and Joe Swift host this new, four-part series, which can perhaps be best described as *Ground Force* for a new generation – although there's no news yet on whether that much-missed show's trademark brass band soundtrack will be making a return. The *Flowerpot Gang* will see Anneka, Phil and Joe journey across the country, transforming neglected plots of land into life-changing spaces as they go. Their first stop is Woodland View, a nursing home on the outskirts of Sheffield. Its garden should provide a haven for the home's 60 residents, who have various forms of dementia, but the paths are too dangerous, so it's out of bounds. But now, all that's about to change.

THURSDAY

Peter Kay Live: The Tour That Didn't Tour – Tour Channel 4, 9pm

The idea of booking tickets for a comedy gig two years in advance is unheard of for many, but Peter Kay is no ordinary comedian. His success on the circuit has been unparalleled, so when he announced his *Tour That Wouldn't Tour*, his first for seven years, fans responded in their masses for the gigs at Manchester Arena. The result was documented in

Ruth Rendell's **Thirteen Steps Down**, Monday, ITV1, 9pm

a best-selling DVD, and now here's a chance to see some of the rib-tickling highlights. Okay, you may have already paid to view much of this, but there are some added extras here that weren't included on the DVD.

FRIDAY

Celebrity MasterChef, BBC2, 6.30pm

As the remaining contestants hope they can stand the heat and make it to a place in the final eight, the famous oven jockeys are challenged to produce a lip-smacking two-course meal to be judged by two past champions – Lisa Faulkner and Phil Vickery – and previous finalist Andi Peters. It remains to be seen who gets through this stage of the competition, but we comfortably predict it will lead to a serious spot of fridge raiding from viewers around the UK. As ever, John Torode and Gregg Wallace will be judging.

Corrie Goes to Kenya, ITV1, 9pm

Sue Cleaver, Ryan Thomas, Brooke Vincent and Ben Price may be four of *Coronation Street*'s best-loved actors, but entertaining millions each week from the relatively cosy sets of Manchester was light years away from one of their greatest acting challenges. Earlier this year, they joined forces with the charity SAFE to use performing arts to educate people on the dangers of HIV and drug abuse. In the first of a two-part series we see how the thespians better known as Eileen, Jason, Sophie and Nick use their *Coronation Street* storyline experience as a way of spreading the word about the dangers of two of the world's biggest killers. This first episode sees the quartet arrive at Mombasa's biggest slum.

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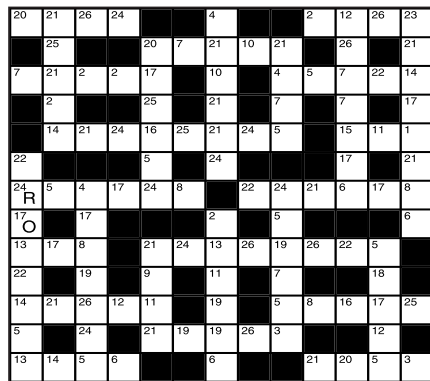
What's On!

Brain Gym

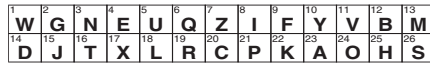
No.181

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



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CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS
QUICK CROSSWORDS
CODEWORD SUDOKU
WORD PUZZLER
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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

6, 22Ac & 12Ac.

- What the single-minded poultry-farmer does? (4,3,3,4,2,3,6)
7. Fight for rubbish (5)
9. A satchel for share certificates (5)
10. Crying out for a vacation (7)
12. See 6 Across
14. Under-seamen? (11)
18. Swagger gives the Arcadian a feeling of discomfort (7)
19. A quaintly pleasing kind of accent (5)
21. Change the place for the wedding, we hear (5)
22. See 6 Across

Quick Clues:

Across

6. Extend (7)
7. Light meal (5)
9. Speak (5)
10. Ripens (7)
12. Share owner (11)
14. Bespoke (4,2,5)
18. Unfeeling (7)
19. Awry (5)
21. Tilt (5)
22. Pardon (7)

Down

1. Moving with speed - but alive, nevertheless! (5)
2. Make over the property - like to write your name? (6)
3. No youngster is in school-days (3)
4. Libra or parts of Pisces! (6)
5. Parent disturbed about one with artistic talent (7)
8. Musket container gets attention all round (7)
11. Showing craftiness in any serious disorder (7)
13. The dog, with skill, can be healed (7)
15. Complained about a demon (6)
16. The noise of a bat (6)
17. This will provide play-room (5)
20. The strike is a great success (3)

Down

1. Condition (5)
2. Abandon (6)
3. Frigid (3)
4. Yearly (6)
5. Plotter (7)
8. Collects (7)
11. Eight-armed cephalopod (7)
13. Bullfighter (7)
15. Enrol (6)
16. Flag (6)
17. Depart (5)
20. Wand (3)

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

The letter represented by the question mark is H. Christie, Calzaghe, Beckham, all winners of the BBC

ALL YOUR PUZZLE NEEDS IN ONE HANDY APP!



App Store

OUT NOW!

Seven great games in one!

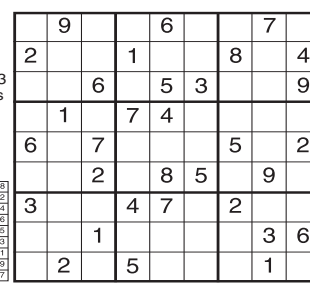
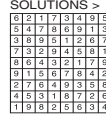
CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS
QUICK CROSSWORDS
CODEWORD SUDOKU
WORD PUZZLER
WORD SEARCH
NUMBER CRUNCH

SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES On the iPhone, iPod Touch & iPad

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



star★extra TRAVEL christmas markets

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Brontë Country and Haworth Christmas market

Two-day break departing November 17

FROM £79-95*

- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- A visit to the Victorian Christmas market in Haworth

- A visit to Christkindlemarkt in Leeds

Arranged by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V787X)

Chatsworth Christmas festival

Two-day break departing November 17

FROM £105*

- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Meadowhall shopping centre

- Entrance to Chatsworth House and gardens

Arranged by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

York St Nicholas fayre

Two-day break departing December 1

FROM £89-95*

- Overnight half-board accommodation

- Visits to York St Nicholas Fayre and Haworth

Arranged by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Bath Christmas market

Two-day break departing December 1

FROM £95*

- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to the McArthurGlen shopping Outlet

- Visit to Bath Christmas market

Arranged by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Lincoln Christmas market

Two-day break departing December 8

FROM £89-95*

- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to the Meadowhall shopping centre

- Visit to Lincoln Christmas market

Arranged by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Grassington Dickensian festival and Manchester's Christmas markets

Two-day break departing December 8

FROM £99-95*

- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Manchester's Christmas markets

- Visit to the Grassington Dickensian festival

Arranged by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

*single room supplements apply



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Semi-detached on market at £115,000



This semi-detached in Lanesfield is ideally situated for Dudley and Wolverhampton



The breakfast kitchen has a wide range of units, tiled floor and splashback

THIS traditional style semi-detached house offers well-proportioned three-bed accommodation.

Number 130 Mount Road, Lanesfield, is gas centrally heated and has uPVC double glazing.

The property - which is on the market with Wakeman, priced £115,000 - occupies a larger than average plot with a particularly large and private rear garden and is situated in an established residential area, between Sedgley and Wolverhampton

and convenient for a wide range of amenities. An entrance hall with quarry tiled floor leads to the living room. This has feature slate fireplace and hearth with flame-effect gas fire and wooden surround.

A large breakfast kitchen is fitted with a range of wood fronted units, sink, worktop surfaces, wall cupboards and breakfast bar.

In addition, there is a built-in oven and hob, tiled splash-back, tiled floor, built-in cupboard and provision for washing machine.

An inner hall has tiled floor, leading

to utility store. Off the first floor landing, there are three bedrooms, one of which has a large cupboard which may suit conversion to an en suite.

A fully tiled family bathroom has shower cubicle, wash basin in vanity unit and low-level WC, plus ceiling spotlights.

Outside, a gravelled front garden has gated side entrance leading to a large rear garden with slabbed patio area, lawn and shrub borders. There is also a orkshop store.

Call Wakeman on 01902 885894 for more details.



To the rear, there is a good-sized garden, predominantly lawn

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MARSHWOOD CROFT, HALESOWEN



Immaculate & extended det 4 bed home
Lounge diner, fitted kitchen & utility room
Master bedroom & refitted en-suite
3 further bedrooms & family shower room
Garage & block paved driveway to front
Lawned private gardens to rear
£249,950 Ref: D1219

GRAYSWOOD PARK ROAD, QUINTON



Immaculate home in sought after tree lined road
Refitted 14ft kitchen with built in appliances
2 reception rooms, D/S WC & garage
Refitted bathroom with shower & 3 beds
Extensive block paved driveway & garage
Gas central heating & Majority UPVC DG
£199,950 Ref: D1146

JACKSON WAY, QUINTON



Large semi in popular area
21ft (max) lounge, downstairs WC
20ft open plan dining kitchen/family rm
3 good sized bedrooms & large bathroom
Benefitting gas central heating & majority DBG
ORP, integral garage & gardens
£159,950 Ref: D1220

POTTERY ROAD, OLDBURY



Spacious & well presented home
14ft lounge and 11ft dining room
Refitted kitchen and 16ft lean to utility
Refitted bathroom - white suite & 3 beds
Rear garage & lawned garden
Double glazed and gas central heating
£149,950 Ref: D1217

WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, OLDBURY



Extended 5 bedroom semi-detached home
Extended breakfast kitchen & lounge diner
5 good bedrooms with separate shower
Block paved driveway & integral garage
Private landscaped and lawned garden
GCH and majority UPVC double glazing
£220,000 Ref: D1197

WEYMOOR ROAD, HARBORNE



Extended semi with side garage/store
24ft 5 (max into bay) lounge/dining room
Refitted kitchen & reception/breakfast area
Three bedrooms & large bathroom
UPVC DBG & fascias, gas central heating
Vacant possession - no upward chain
£205,000 Ref: D1175

BLACKTHORNE ROAD, SMETHWICK



Double fronted semi det in cul-de-sac
17ft lounge & separate dining room
Fitted kitchen, utility room & DS WC
3 bedrooms & refitted shower room
Block paved driveway
UPVC double glazing & GCH
£139,950 Ref: D1201

TEDSTONE ROAD, QUINTON



Semi detached with secluded garden
Lounge, dining kitchen & conservatory
Three bedrooms & bathroom on first floor
Majority UPVC DBG, GCH & alarm
Block paved frontage & detached garage/store
Vacant possession - no upward chain
£121,950 Ref: D1177

BURRINGTON ROAD, BARTLEY GREEN



Spacious 3 bed home with driveway to front
16ft lounge diner & 11ft 10 breakfast kitchen
Entrance porch with walk in storage
3 good sized bedrooms, bathroom & WC
Gas central heating & double glazing
Rear garden with secluded aspect
£99,950 Ref: D1198

FELDON LANE, HALESOWEN



Superbly presented two bed end terrace
Fitted with UPVC d/g, GCH & alarm
Lounge, dining room with conservatory off
Fitted kitchen & downstairs bathroom
Low maintenance courtyard style garden
Internal inspection essential
£89,950 Ref: D1074

THE TERRACE, CRADLEY HEATH



3-4 bedroom extended semi
No upward chain
Lounge, kitchen, downstairs bathroom
Dining room (4th bed) with en-suite
Gardens to front & rear
In need of modernisation
£85,000 Ref: D1190

SEEDHOUSE COURT, CRADLEY HEATH



Spacious first floor flat with 2 double beds
Secluded position over looking woodland
Lounge & kitchen - with woodland views
Communal rear gardens - allocated parking
Fitted with gas central heating & combi boiler
Vacant possession - No upward chain
£79,950 Ref: D1046

FRANKLEY AVENUE, HALESOWEN



Four bed extended home with garage
Extended kitchen & UPVC conservatory
20ft max lounge & separate dining room
Master fitted bedroom with ensuite shower
Three further bedrooms & family bathroom
Block paved driveway & integral garage
£219,950 Ref: D1182

PARSONS HILL, OLDBURY



Lounge, kitchen and downstairs WC
16ft 4 conservatory/dining room
Three bedrooms and bathroom
Off road parking for multiple vehicles
Large rear garden with SW aspect
UPVC double glazing & gas central heating
£139,950 Ref: D1192

NORMAN ROAD, BEARWOOD



3 bed semi on corner plot
2 separate reception rooms
Extended 20ft breakfast kitchen
Upstairs bathroom & D/S WC
Garage & driveway to front
UPVC DG & GCH
£124,995 Ref: D1164

OAKWOOD ROAD, SMETHWICK



3 Bedroom traditional terraced home
Garage to rear - access off Manor Road
11ft dining area leading to 12ft lounge
14ft 3 (max) kitchen & DS shower room
2 double bedrooms & 3rd bedroom in loft
UPVC double glazing & central heating
£99,950 Ref: D1211

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HALESOWEN, SHENSTONE VALLEY ROAD

A three bedroom end terrace house on a large corner plot comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms and One Single, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazed, Electronic Garage Doors and Driveway for several Vehicles. A Versatile Family Home. Not to be Missed. Available Immediately.

£750 PCM



HALESOWEN, JIMARA, FELDON LANE

Situated in Halesowen/Blackheath, is this extended traditional semi-detached house with plenty of space. Comprising of Large Living Room, Separate Dining Room, Study, Two Double Bedrooms, One Large Single Bedroom, House Bathroom with Shower, Gaily Kitchen with Appliances, Separate Utility Room, Downstairs WC, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Large Driveway for 3 Cars.

£695 PCM



HALESOWEN, ALBERT ROAD

An immaculately presented detached house within minutes of Halesowen, in a well sought after location, comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Large Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Downstairs WC, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking to the Front, Detached Garage at Rear, Front and Rear Gardens. A Property Not To Be Missed

£695 PCM



HALESOWEN, BLAGDON ROAD

A three bedroom part furnished to suit three storey town house in this very popular residential area, close to Newfield Park School, Earls and Windsor. Comprising of large living room, fitted kitchen with appliances, three double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, garage and driveway parking. Available immediately.

£650 PCM



HALESOWEN, FOXHOLLIES DRIVE

Part Furnished to suit Semi Detached House Located on a quiet Cul-De-Sac. Comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Living Room, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Bathroom with shower, Gas central heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking.

£595 PCM



HALESOWEN, VICTORIA ROAD

An unfurnished terrace property, close to local shops and transport links, briefly comprising of: Four Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Dining Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Driveway Parking

£575 PCM



HALESOWEN, FATHERLESS BARN CRESCENT

A very well presented semi-detached house, in a sought after area for Cooley Lane Primary School and bus links and with great views from the rear bedrooms, comprising of: Large Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway for Two Cars.

£550 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, PROSPECT GARDENS

Located close to Stourbridge Town Centre, is this unfurnished mid terrace house, comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Cosy Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Bathroom with Shower, Small Rear Garden, Parking Space to Front

£525 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, TURNEY ROAD

Located in a quiet cul-de-sac is this unfurnished semi detached house, comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Large Living Room, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, One Single Bedroom, Modern Bathroom with Shower, Large Rear Garden, Ample Driveway Parking, Close to all local amenities

£500 PCM



HALESOWEN, SUNBURY ROAD

Being ideally located on a quiet cul-de-sac and within walking distance to local shops and bus routes to Halesowen and Stourbridge. Also within the catchment area for Windsor High School. Comprising of: One Double and One Single Bedroom, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, House Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Driveway Parking.

£495 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, HALAS COURT

An unfurnished third floor apartment, close to local shops, train station, and bus routes, briefly comprising of: Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with Appliances, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Electronic Gates leading to Secure Parking Area, Internal Inspection Recommended

£495 PCM



NETHERTON, ROCK HAVEN

An immaculately presented modern 1st floor unfurnished apartment, situated close to shops and bus links, comprising of: Open Plan Kitchen with Appliances/Lounge with Large Bay Window, Two Bedrooms, House Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazed and Electric Heating, Communal Gardens and Parking Space Available. Available Immediately

£475 PCM



NETHERTON, ROUND STREET

An unfurnished semi detached house, in a popular area, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking

£475 PCM



HALESOWEN, MANOR LANE

A furnished flat above shop, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Large Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Shower Room, Secure Parking

£475 PCM



UPPER GORNAL, TUDOR VALE

Unfurnished end mews house briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Two bedroom, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Parking Space

£475 PCM



HALESOWEN, SHENSTONE FLATS

An unfurnished second floor flat, close to local shops and bus routes, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Kitchen and Storage Area, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Garden, Parking

£450 PCM



OLDBURY, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD

This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking to Rear, Unfurnished £400 for the 1st 6 months and £425 after

£400 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, ARCHER GARDENS

An unfurnished ground floor maisonette, located close to shops and amenities, briefly comprising of: Lounge with Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen with Washing Machine, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking Space

£395 PCM



BRIERLEY HILL, FOXDALE DRIVE

Situated in a quiet location and within walking distance to Brierley Hill town centre and a short drive or bus to Merry Hill Shopping Centre is this ground floor apartment, comprising of: One Double Bedroom and One Single, Fitted Kitchen, House Bathroom with Shower, Spacious Lounge, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, One Allocated Parking Space

£395 PCM



HALESOWEN, PIPPIN AVENUE

Located on this popular development of Homer Hill, Located close to Cradley Heath train station, bus route to Halesowen and Merry Hill, Comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen, House Bathroom with Shower. A property not to be missed

£395 PCM



HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY

Located on the popular development of the Homer Hill Estate, is the spacious first floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Allocated Parking

£375 PCM

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This two-bedroom home is on the market with Trinity Property

Asking price reduced

A SPACIOUS and modern two-bedroom end terrace house in a popular area of Dudley is on the market with a reduced asking price of £114,950.

The property in Richborough Drive has a large front garden with a pathway to the front door which leads into an open plan hallway into the lounge which measures 12ft 11in by 15ft 10in.

The dining kitchen, 11ft 11in by 10ft 5in, has a range of wall and base units with roll top work surfaces while the stairs from the lounge lead to two double bedrooms and a bathroom with cream suite with shower over the path and glass shower screen.

The rear garden has a patio and lawned area, and to the front of the property are two allocated parking spaces.

The house is on the market with Trinity Property, 21 Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, DY1 1DB.

Please call 01384 213395 to arrange a suitable time to view.



Stairs from the lounge lead to the two bedrooms on the first floor

Cutting cost of heating home

Even during a summer like this one, it's the perfect time to consider fitting an air source heat pump, says Julia Gray

IF YOU want to make your home greener and cleaner, an air source heat pump could be the answer.

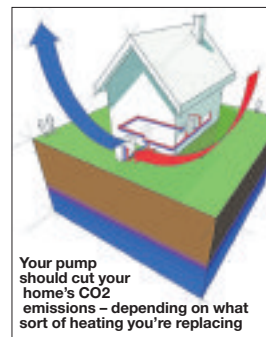
These pumps extract heat from the air outside and then increase its temperature, before using it to heat your home.

There are two types of pump – air to air and air to water. The former produce warm (and also cool) air and circulate it around your home through fans.

Air-to-water pumps supply your home's (wet) central heating system. However, they don't make the water as hot as a boiler does, so you may need to fit bigger radiators because the ones you have won't give out as much heat, or install (wet) underfloor heating, where the water doesn't need to be so hot.

Underfloor heating is a good option with a heat pump, but is often expensive and disruptive to retrofit – it's ideal for renovations and houses being built.

According to the Energy Saving Trust, fitting an air source heat pump costs around £6,000 to £10,000. How



Your pump should cut your home's CO2 emissions – depending on what sort of heating you're replacing

quickly you'll get that money back depends on a number of factors, but you'll save most money if you're replacing a coal-fired or electric heating system (if you have mains-gas central heating, an air source heat pump may not be for you).

The good news is that once the Renewable Heat Incentive (see www.which.co.uk) starts (probably next year), it should take less time to recoup your investment.

This Government scheme will pay people who heat their homes using renewable technologies, including air source heat pumps.

Even though the scheme isn't up and running yet, you may be able to get a

Renewable Heat Premium Payment (see the website www.energysavingtrust.org.uk) to help you with the cost of installing a heat pump. As well as providing you with an income (assuming the Renewable Heat Incentive goes ahead), your pump should also cut your home's CO2 emissions (depending on what sort of heating you're replacing).

The problem, of course, is that although air is renewable, these pumps need electricity to work. The most eco solution is to generate your own electricity, using a wind turbine or solar panels, for example, which is another big investment.

Air source heat pumps rarely need much maintenance, but they may not work as well when it's colder than -5C outside (although they can work at temperatures as low as -15C), so another form of heating may be necessary in winter.

It is, of course, vital that your home's draught proofed and well insulated for the heating system to work efficiently.

Whether or not you need planning permission for an air source heat pump will depend on where you live in the country (and sometimes other factors), so check with your local planning department.

As always, if your home's leasehold, you may need the permission of the freeholder to make an alteration such as fitting an air source heat pump. And if it affects a wall or boundary you share with a neighbour, it may be necessary to draw up a party wall agreement with them.



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RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 MAXIM 06 Reg, 5-dr, Gold, Air Con, Alloys, 46k, FSH.	£3995
VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 CLUB 56 Reg, 5-dr, Black, Air Con, 76k, FSH.	£3995
VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 SRI 56 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 52k, FSH.	£4295
RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 EXTREME 08 Reg, 5-dr, Black, Air Con, 35k, FSH.	£4495
PEUGEOT 207 1.4 SPORT 07 (56) Reg, Red, AC, Alloys, 47k, FSH.	£4495
RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI MAXIM 06 Reg, 5-dr, Black, Air Con, Alloys, 70k, FSH.	£4495
PEUGEOT 307 1.6 HDI S 07 Reg, 5-dr, Blue Metallic, Air Con, 39k, FSH.	£4795
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The Astra BiTurbo 5-door Hatch, built in Ellesmere Port comes with Vauxhall's Lifetime Warranty

Astra's BiTurbo Hatch and Tourer are hot off mark

HOT ON the heels of the GTC BiTurbo, Vauxhall is adding two more high performance diesels with 195PS and 400 Nm torque to its Astra range.

The British-built Astra BiTurbo 5-door Hatch and Sports Tourer – which becomes the most powerful estate in its class – offer blistering performance, high levels of practicality and frugality.

Both models have a top speed in excess of 135mph and can achieve 0-60mph in under eight seconds. The boost in performance does not compromise economy either, with low CO2 emissions of 134g/km and a combined 55.4mpg. Both models have Start/Stop technology. Twin turbo technology is

rare in this class and the Astra uses a sequential turbocharging system, with the smaller turbo accelerating quickly at lower speeds to eliminate 'lag', providing 320Nm of torque from 1,250rpm. In the mid-range of rpm, both turbochargers operate together, with the larger turbocharger pre-compressing the intake air, before it is fully compressed in the smaller one.

A bypass valve is controlled continuously to pass on part of the exhaust gases to the larger turbo. As a result, the driver still enjoys smooth acceleration. At higher rpm (from around 3,000rpm) all the gases flow directly to the larger turbocharger, maintaining the fluid power delivery at higher speeds. Built at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant in Cheshire, the new deriva-

tives benefit from the recent styling refresh that can be found across the Astra range.

The aggressive new look includes a revised front grille, new front indicators and fog lamps, and refreshed rear-panel styling. Both BiTurbo models come with an array of unique features including 18" alloy wheels, twin rear exhausts, exterior styling pack and alloy sports pedals.

Available to order tomorrow, with first deliveries expected late 2012, prices start from £24,095 for the Hatch and from £25,110 for the Sports Tourer. As with all Vauxhall passenger cars, Lifetime Warranty is standard, giving first owners the peace of mind of a warranty that lasts the car's lifetime, up to a maximum 100,000 miles.



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The stylish Subaru XV, rated one of the safest vehicles in its class



The SUV can comfortably transport five adults and their luggage

Subaru's new SUV truly the real deal

SUBARU has belatedly entered into the hotly contested SUV market, with the arrival of the XV crossover, writes Bob Hickman.

The new All-Wheel Drive vehicle, priced from £21,295 for entry level 1.6i S models, will attempt to establish itself as one of the most capable and best-value-for-money compact crossovers currently available.

The market currently dominated by the Nissan Qashqai is the obvious target for sales but when you check out the prices of the XV it really is up against the more up market derivatives like the Audi Q3.

The five-star Euro NCAP-rated Subaru XV is one of the safest vehicles in its class and in addition combines style and functionality with generous levels of standard-fit equipment.

Being a Subaru you expect and receive a permanent All-Wheel Drive system and the famous "growing" Boxer engines, this follows a well chosen path that results in a vehicle that will be perfectly at home in all manner of driving conditions, it really is a genuine four-wheel-drive vehicle and not a poseur pseudo type. Subaru is confident that the XV will thoroughly satisfy the needs of existing customers, while also attracting new consumers to the brand.

There is a choice of three Euro V-compliant Boxer engines, 1.6 and 2.0-litre petrol, and 2.0-litre diesel. Petrol-powered XV models benefit from Subaru's new fuel-saving Auto Start Stop System as standard, boosting fuel savings in congested traffic.

Performer

The 1.6-litre and 2.0-litre petrol engines develop 114ps and 150ps respectively, while the 2.0-litre diesel produces 147ps, with a choice of either a five and six-speed manual or a six-speed CVT automatic (petrol only).

Performance has always been a strong point with Subaru, we only have to cast our minds back a few years to the heady success of the brand on the World Rally stage to appreciate this, capable of reaching 60mph in 9.3 seconds and with a top speed of 116mph, the 2.0 diesel is likely to be the best-selling variant in the UK it offers fuel economy of 50.4mpg on the combined cycle, while emitting 146g/km of CO₂.

Should you be purchasing this vehicle to actually venture off road you will be pleased to note that the XV also features the highest ground clearance and lowest centre of gravity in class, making it a highly capable performer both on and off road.

The level of specification is generous, the entry-level S models feature as standard ABS, traction control, Subaru Vehicle Dynamics Control (SVDC), front, side, curtain and knee airbags, 17-inch alloy wheels, daytime LED running lights and automatic air conditioning as standard.

The SE models add cruise control, rear-view camera, Bluetooth functionality and USB/iPod connectivity. The top of the range SE Lux has a sunroof, Keyless Smart Entry, push-button start, leather seats and satellite navigation.

Subaru has a reputation built up over many years of building dependable and reliable vehicles so I see no reason why the XV should not stand up to whatever is thrown at it.

The vehicle is quite practical, in addition to the potential to venture off road the interior will easily accommodate five adults and their luggage, the rear passengers will appreciate the generous leg room, with the seats folded a huge amount of capacity is revealed much bigger than the Qashqai opposition.

One problem that the Subaru importers are have to contend with is the yen to pound ratio which unfortunately is making the pricing for the new XV a little more expensive with the range starting at £21,295 for the 1.6i S models, and rising to £29,995 for the range-topping 2.0D SE Lux Premium.



Reflecting on success – Subaru are aiming to transfer their rally record into the SUV market

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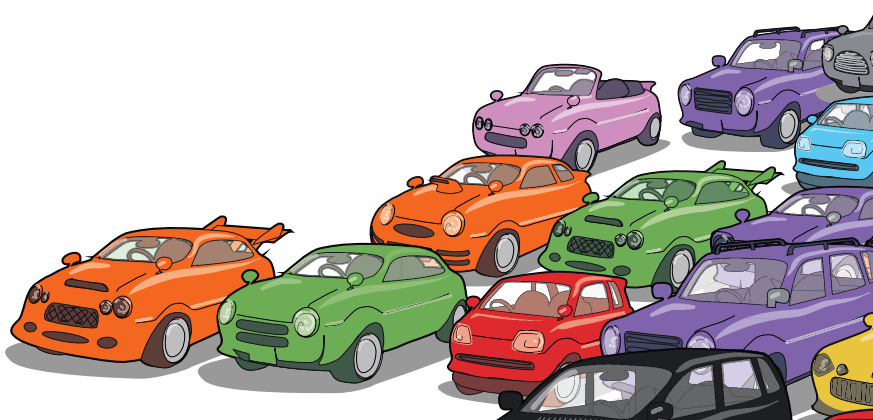
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ROVER 45 1.6 IXS, 52 reg, 77K, black, June 2013, alloys, new front tyres, good condition, £755 o.n.o. 07910 607861.

ROVER 620i 1995, Honda engine, tax and MoT, good, reliable, £375 o.n.o. 01902 545917 or 07831 432561.

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Bears duo put pen to paper on new deals

WARWICKSHIRE have handed new deals to Darren Maddy and Boyd Rankin.

Maddy has signed a new contract extension for the 2013 season.

The 38-year-old, who joined from Leicestershire in 2007, has played 63 first class matches for the Bears – scoring eight centuries – and has been a key member of the club's one-day squad.

Ashley Giles, Warwickshire's director of cricket, said: "Maddy is a great role model; he's won many trophies, keeps himself very fit, and is always keen to work on improving his game."

"It's a great asset to have one of the most successful players in the modern era of County cricket in our squad, and we're all delighted that he's committed himself to Warwickshire."

Paceman Rankin has extended his stay until the end of the 2015 season.

Rankin said: "It's fantastic to put pen to paper and commit to such a great club as Warwickshire. The coaching team have been great in helping me develop as a cricketer and we have a team that's capable of consistently challenging for honours."

Sports net the points in a thriller

Dudley Sports 3 Bartley Green 2

SPORTS came out on top in a pulsating West Midlands League game.

Green took the lead in the 15 minute when a mistake allowed Barnes to run clear and score.

Sports were level within 10 minutes when a Stevens cross was volleyed home by Hearsay from six yards.

The hosts were back in front on 32 minutes, Hearsay running through the Green defence and chipping the keeper.

Green hit back to equalise again two minutes later when Knight fired home from 25 yards.

On the stroke of half-time, Sports nosed back in front. Mark Gore was tripped in the box and Stevens scored at the second attempt after his penalty was saved.

The second half produced chances but with both keepers in fine form there were no more goals.

New-boy El Ghanassy catches the eye

Walsall 1 Albion 3

SUMMER signing Yassine El Ghanassy was the star of the show as Albion bagged a comfortable pre-season victory.

The Belgium international caught the eye as he scored one goal and made the other two in front of more than 2,500 travelling Baggies fans.

Albion boss Steve Clarke was delighted with the on-loan Ghent man's display.

"He was involved in all the goals which is a good contribution," said Clarke.

"Like I said when I brought him

in, he's a young player and has a lot to learn.

"We'll keep his feet on the ground and he'll keep working on his game. But he's got some key assets and at times he can look quite exciting."

Another new arrival, Claudio Jacob, made his first start for Albion and played 76 minutes while young striker Saido Berahino grabbed a well-taken goal as a second-half substitute.

Craig Dawson returned to club action following his Olympic stint with Team GB and netted the opening goal before half-time.

by Steve Madeley

Berahino and El Ghanassy made it 3-0 while Boaz Myhill saved a penalty from Walsall's Febian Brandy.

George Bowerman grabbed a last-gasp consolation goal for the Saddlers.

"It was a good game for us," said Clarke. "We had to work hard."

"The boys who played weren't involved at the weekend and I asked them to show me something that excited me. They did that."

"I thought there were some good

things, especially in the second half."

Albion broke the deadlock on 16 minutes. El Ghanassy whipped in a corner and Dawson powered home a header from six yards out.

Albion held the upper-hand in the early stages but Myhill was called into action to deny Florent Cuvelier and Will Grigg.

The Baggies' extra quality eventually told, however, as they doubled their lead just after the hour mark.

A positive forward run by El Ghanassy saw him slip in Berahino for a cool finish.

Walsall ought to have reduced the arrears when Cameron Gayle tripped Febian Brandy in the box.

But the home substitute struck the resulting penalty too close to Myhill.

Berahino continued to look lively and went close again with a smart turn and shot that forced David Grof into a tumbling save.

Albion grabbed a third when Marc-Antoine Fortune crossed for El Ghanassy to tap home.

Saddlers netted a consolation when Richard Bowerman's shot took a deflection and looped in over Myhill.

Clarke is on the mark for Tividale

Tividale 1 Colehill 1

BRETT CLARK was the hero for Tividale as they salvaged a point from their opening home Midland Alliance clash of the season.

Clarke struck eight minutes from time make it four points out of six for Tivi following Saturday's 3-0 victory at Kirby Muxloe.

Tividale's Kyle Brady was the first to threaten when his dipping 35-yard volley flashed just wide of Simon Hands' left-hand post.

Colehill's first attempt on goal came when centre-half Liam Mansell headed a free-kick just wide.

It was no surprise when the visitors opened the scoring, Jason Ramsey on target after winning a tackle with keeper Tim Beech 30 yards out before placing the ball into the unguarded net.

The goal sparked Tividale into action and in quick succession their two Kyles – Hill and Brady – went close with long-range efforts.

Beech denied Richard Gregory twice after the break while Hands saved from Chilton and Kyle Hill. Tividale continued to dominate during the second half with substitute Adam Hill calling the shots in midfield. Brady, Kyle Hill and Taylor all went close before Clark headed in a deserved equaliser.

Brady almost won the game for Tividale right at the death.

Brummies come up just short

Belle Vue 47 Birmingham 43

BIRMINGHAM had to console themselves with a solitary Elite League point from their Monday night trip to Belle Vue.

The battling Brummies lost the services of Danny King mid-meeting, who was still feeling the effects of last week's injuries, but still managed to take the match to a last race decider.

But there was to be no late heroics as the Aces finished the night strongly and Brummies were left wondering if they had missed an opportunity for a valuable away win or draw.

Martin Smolinski had his best night of the season with 13+1 and Bjarne Pedersen offered good support with 11.

DUDLEY HEATHENS proved they have plenty in reserve as they took another step towards the National League title.

A statistical quirk has temporarily demoted British under-21 runner-up Tom Perry to the No.6 racejacket – his scoring is second only to the prodigious feats of skipper Adam Roynon.

But until Perry completes a third home match to update his average, last year's figure compiled as part of his learning process is the one that applies.

And last night he filled his boots as the Heathens dismissed with ease a Stoke team good enough to inflict a first National League defeat on title challengers Mildenhall at the weekend – and on the Fen Tigers' own shale at that.

The Potters' problem is that their team building is lop-sided, with a heavy-hitting top four expected to bear the brunt and the other three chipping in with whatever they can muster.

Should just one of the top-liners falter then the edifice crumbles. Last night it was the fate of genial veteran Tony Atkin – a 10-point hero in the triumph over Mildenhall – to struggle.

Dudley needed no second invitation but, in truth, had torn into the meeting from the off and built a 10-point lead in the space of three races.

Perry lost out to Golden Hammer runner-up Simon Lambert in an opening heat three-pass dogfight made even more remarkable by

by Tim Hamblin

the fact that the Dudley man's front shock absorber had come loose.

After that he was unbeaten in five further outings – but visiting reserve Ben Reade tested him to the upmost in a classic heat 12.

The two roared round shoulder to shoulder with Perry on the outside and Reade appearing to get marginally the better of affairs until the home rider sold the dummy, switched the line of attack and powered through on the inside.

With his attention so engaged, Reade was unfortunate enough to be ambushed on the final corner by Perry's team-mate Byron Bekker and relegated to third.

Bekker had a fine night and his racing lines spoke volumes for the confidence he now displays around Monmore. His rousing last-race effort to wrest third place from Lambert went down supremely well with the home fans who had vented their ire on the visitor after Ashley Morris went down under his challenge in heat 11.



Leading from the front – Heathens ace Ashley Morris powers away from Stoke duo Ashley Birks and Ben Reade



Dudley's Adam Roynon and Darryl Ritchings out in front



In-form Tom Perry leads Stoke No.1 Simon Lambert



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SPORT

On track

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Star turn

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Heathens boss aims to match '83 heroes

DUDLEY speedway bosses are daring to dream of emulating the celebrated Heathens of 1983.

That Cradley team lost just two matches out of 28 in winning the British League and also annexed the Knock-out Cup, going unbeaten in all eight legs over four ties.

'The Magnificent Seven' is a side that has gone into club folklore – current coach Jan O Pedersen averaged nearly seven and a half from reserve – but the 2012 version could write their own name in the history books.

Dudley have won all 10 National League matches this season and have just four fixtures left – only one of them away, at title rivals Mildenhall. They're also on the verge of a KOC semi-final place.

And team manager Will Pottinger admitted that a clean sweep is in his mind.

"It would be absolutely perfect if we could go through the league season without a defeat," he said.

"It would be superb; you'd go down in history, more or less as the '83 team did."

"To be put in comparison with that team is unreal. Because of the play-off system, it's not the end of the world if we lose at Mildenhall."

"But we still want to win and going through the season unbeaten would be really nice."

Pottinger added: "I'd definitely take a play-off victory. The league title's the big one."

Dudley ace Perry lands a wild card

DUDLEY favourite Tom Perry has been confirmed as a wild card for the World Under-21 final round at Coventry on Friday, August 17.

The Heathens star will get the chance to take on some of the sport's top international rising stars in the Brandon event, including Maciej Janowski, Przemyslaw Pawlicki and Michael Jepsen Jensen.

The other wild card place has gone to 2011 Heathen and recent Golden Hammer winner Kyle Newman.

Full draw: Oleksandr Loktaev, Kyle Newman, Nikolaj Jakobsen, Mikkel B Jensen, Vaclov Milk, Tobiasz Musielak, Patrick Dudek, Michael Jepsen Jensen, Tom Perry, Bartosz Zmarzlik, Przemyslaw Pawlicki, Damian Adamczak, Maciej Janowski, Mikkel Michelsen, Sam Masters, Piotr Pawlicki. Reserves: Stefan Nielsen, Joe Haines.

Varnish targets Rio after heartbreak

by Nick Mashiter

HALESOWEN CYCLING CLUB star Jess Varnish has vowed to put her Olympic heartache behind her.

The 21-year-old saw her London 2012 hopes crushed after an early changeover saw her and Victoria Pendleton relegated from the final in the team sprint.

It snatched away a guaranteed silver medal with the Team GB pair preparing to face China.

Pendleton, who retires after these Games, bounced back to win gold in the keirin and silver in the sprint.

Varnish, who was making her Olympic debut, is now targeting glory in Rio 2016.

"I was completely gutted, heartbroken. It makes me feel sick thinking about it, but I'm going to get over it," said Varnish.

"I can hold my head up high; we didn't make a massive mistake, it was a split-second and we broke a world record before that so we can't be too hard on ourselves."

"I've got so much time left, though. These Olympics didn't go very well, but I can look at that and see it's not my time – but I'm going to come back fighting."

Varnish and Pendleton were left in tears trackside after the judges ruled Pendleton overtook her partner just a metre too soon.

China were also relegated to silver; after winning the final, for the same mistake to hand Germany the gold as Australia took bronze.

Pendleton took the blame for the

mistake but Varnish, from Bromsgrove, cleared her partner and insisted they share responsibility.

"It's a mixture of both," she said. "We switched too early and there's nothing in it."

Varnish is expected to take up the role as the country's No.1 with Pendleton retiring and will turn her attention to Rio 2016, when she will be 25.

"I'll have a little holiday, but I am looking forward to returning," she said. "I'm definitely seeing Rio as where I'm going to go."

Welborn is set to face a foreign opponent

BOXING returns to Wolverhampton Civic Hall next month with Midlands champion Jason Welborn set to face an international class opponent.

Rowley Regis' Welborn, the area welterweight title holder, will tackle a yet-to-be-confirmed foreign foe over 10 rounds on Friday, September 28 after two defences of his belt.

Successful fifth-round stoppages at the Civic have made the 26-year-old a feared puncher.

Jason Flinn was put away after being floored twice by body shots in his first title defence in March, with Scott Haywood later halted in the same round.

Haywood had his jaw broken from a right hook in June and failed to come out for the sixth round as Welborn moved to 10 wins from 11, with one loss.

In chief support, Telford's Kieron Gray will be hoping to make it third time lucky after landing a second shot at the British Masters middleweight title.

But the 34-year-old faces a tough test against Sheffield's Jez Wilson, the Central area champion with nine wins on his record, five inside the distance.

Confirmed for the undercard of the Civic bill is Tipton duo Lee Glover and Ricky Summers, along with former Chasetown footballer, the 29-year-old welterweight ave Egan.

"Tipton Slasher" Glover has been out of the ring for 10 months, since competing in the last featherweight Prizefighter. Summers, a senior ABA national semi-finalist with Lions ABC in Dudley, turned pro with a polished performance against Jody Meikle in June.

For details and tickets to the Civic show, call the box office on 0870 320 7000.

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ROSENBERG PENS DEAL WITH ALBION

ALBION have boosted their firepower by signing Sweden international striker Markus Rosenberg.

The Baggies fought off competition from Europe and Asia to capture the 29-year-old on a free transfer from German outfit Werder Bremen.

Rosenberg is Albion's fourth signing of the summer following the arrivals of keeper Ben Foster, winger Yassine El Ghanassay and midfielder Claudio Yacob.

Head coach Steve Clarke said: "I'm delighted to welcome Markus to the club."

"He is an experienced striker who has scored goals in three of Europe's top leagues, as well as in the top European competitions, and is determined to prove himself in the Premier League."

"Markus will really increase competition for places in the forward areas and hopefully spur on the strikers we already have here."

"He had several other offers this summer but he made it clear that joining West Bromwich Albion was his first choice and we're really pleased we've been able to conclude a deal."

Rosenberg has been handed the No.8 shirt by the Baggies.

Sporting and technical director Dan Ashworth added: "We've been keeping tabs on Markus for two or three years now and getting a player of his calibre is a real coup for this club."

"He had offers from Spain, Germany, Turkey, Russia and China and we're delighted he has chosen this club as the next step in his career."

"Markus is quick, has a great work ethic and can

by Steve Madeley

play in a couple of different positions.

"He's scored goals wherever he's played and gives us a different option to what we've already got."

Rosenberg revealed that the lure of the Premier League was too strong to turn down.

And after playing in top-flight Dutch, German and Spanish football, the striker is relishing the chance to test himself in England alongside friend and international team-mate Jonas Olsson.

"It was an easy decision in the end," said Rosenberg.

"It was always a dream to come here and it's a great league for Swedish players as we grow up watching it."

"It's also nice to have a fellow Swede here."

"He's a good friend and comes from the same part of Sweden as me."

"We were also together at the European Championships recently."

"I had a lot of offers but I have never played in the Premier League."

"I have played in a lot of leagues – but not this one – and it was something I really wanted to try."

Baggies new-boys are on parade



Welcome to The Hawthorns – Albion's latest summer recruit Markus Rosenberg, left, is hoping to be a star in stripes after agreeing a three-year-deal with the club. The Baggies beat off competition from across Europe to sign the 29-year-old who was in the crowd at Walsall in midweek to watch another new-boy Claudio Yacob, right, in action. Midfielder Yacob enjoyed a steady game as Albion eased to a comfortable 3-1 success.



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